



J. HASTINGS,
BOOK-BINDER, WALTHAM, MASS.

Job Printing neatly executed.

1224



THE
PARLOUR
LETTER-WRITER,

AND
Secretary's Assistant:

CONSISTING OF
ORIGINAL LETTERS

ON EVERY OCCURRENCE IN LIFE,
WRITTEN IN A CONCISE AND FAMILIAR STYLE,
AND ADAPTED TO BOTH SEXES

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,
Complimentary Cards, Wills, Bonds, &c.

BY R. TURNER.

Philadelphia:
THOMAS, COWPERTHWAIT, & CO

1842.

CHILDRENS ROOM
BY THE WAY

JZ
1038

T95P

PE3

COPY 1

Entered according to the act of Congress, in the year
1835, by DESILVER, THOMAS, & Co., in the clerk's office of
the district court of the eastern district of Pennsylvania.

PREFACE.

It is said that Addison, certainly one of the most accomplished writers of the English language, was once completely nonplussed, upon being required to write suddenly a ceremonious address to some dignitary, in virtue of his office of under Secretary of State. A very inferior man, who was well acquainted with the nature of parliamentary business, took the pen from his hand, and dashed off in two minutes, precisely the thing that was wanted, and to produce which, the accomplished Secretary had laboured, erased, corrected, and cogitated in vain.

This anecdote illustrates the necessity of a technical acquaintance with the proper forms and modes of address for various persons, occasions and circumstances in life. The lawyer has his forms of petition and address, the ambassador his forms of protocols and letters, the commanding general his forms of orders and dispatches—in short, the most distinguished actors on the great stage of life address each other under certain restrictions of form and ceremony, which are as invariable as they are necessary to the correct dispatch of business. The same general principle is applied in the humbler walks of life, and the merchant, farmer, and mechanic, the father and mother, son and daughter—all the stations and relations of life acknowledge certain general forms and modes of written addresses, resulting from their mutual relations, which are highly important to be understood. Ignorance of these, like ignorance of the common rules of politeness, often

From a country tradesman, containing an order for goods.....	45
The answer.....	ib.
From a country bookseller, to one in Philadelphia...	46
The answer.....	ib.
Application for the character of a clerk.....	ib.
The answer.....	47
Another answer.....	ib.
Requesting a loan of money.....	48
The answer.....	ib.
Another answer.....	ib.
Demanding immediate payment of a sum of money.	49
The answer.....	ib.
Another answer.....	50
Complaint of delay in the execution of an order....	ib.
The answer.....	51
Requesting time for the payment of money.....	ib.
The answer.....	52
Another answer.....	ib.
From a journeyman to a gentleman, requesting pecuniary assistance.....	ib.
The answer.....	53
Another.....	54
The answer.....	55
Requesting a favour.....	ib.
The answer.....	56
Soliciting employment.....	ib.
The answer.....	ib.
From a young tradesman, in reply to an unexpected demand for money.....	57
The answer.....	ib.
From a tenant to his landlord, requesting time for the payment of his rent.....	58
The answer.....	ib.
Another answer.....	ib.
From an insolvent tradesman to his principal creditor.....	59
The answer.....	ib.

From a young tradesman to a wholesale dealer, requesting to postpone the payment of a bill.....	60
The answer.....	ib.
Another answer.....	61
From a country tenant, requesting time for the payment of his rent.....	ib
The answer.....	ib.
Another answer.....	62
From a tradesman in the country, to a friend in town, requesting a favour.....	ib.
The answer.....	63
Letter of recommendation.....	ib.
Another.....	ib.
From a young man wishing to commence business, to a rich relative.....	64
The answer.....	65
From a young tradesman in distress, to an old one in prosperity, requesting advice.....	ib.
The answer.....	66
From a merchant to his collector.....	67
An offer of correspondence.....	ib.
The answer.....	68
From a master dissatisfied with his clerk.....	ib.
The answer.....	69
Letter of thanks for an unexpected favour.....	ib.
An apology for not lending money.....	70
From a young merchant to a wholesale dealer.....	ib.
From the wholesale dealer in reply.....	ib.
Offer of partnership.....	71
Caution against partnership.....	ib.
Soliciting employment.....	72
Request of payment.....	ib.
The answer.....	73
From an apprentice to his father.....	ib.
From the father in answer.....	74
From a tradesman in distressed circumstances.....	ib.
The answer.....	75
To an acquaintance, to borrow money.....	ib.

To an intimate acquaintance, to borrow money....	75
To an acquaintance, to borrow money for a short time.....	76
The answer.....	ib.
From a servant in the city, to his master in the country.....	ib.
From a country shopkeeper, to his friend in New- York, desiring him to send him some goods.....	77
The answer.....	ib.
From a country shopkeeper, to a dealer in Philadel- phia, complaining of the badness of his goods...	78
The answer.....	ib.
From a tradesman in reply to a demand from one of his principal creditors.....	79
In reply, and favourable....	80
In reply, unfavourable.....	ib.
From the tradesman in answer.....	81
To a friend, soliciting a favour for a son.....	ib.
Requesting a loan of money.....	82
The answer.....	ib.
The denial.....	83
The tradesman's reply.....	ib.
From a gentleman, requesting the character of a ser- vant.....	84
The answer.....	ib.
A different reply.....	85
From a merchant at Leghorn, to his brother in New- York, desiring him to sell some goods, and pur- chase others.....	ib.
The answer.....	86
To a correspondent, requesting the payment of a sum of money.....	ib.
The answer.....	ib.
Transmitting an account sales.....	87
Rendering an account current.....	ib.
Advice of a bill returned under protest.....	88
Remitting for the foregoing bill.....	ib.
An answer to a letter respecting a failure.....	ib.

Advising the amount of the bankrupt's composition.	89
From an insolvent debtor to his principal creditor, desiring the acceptance of a composition.....	ib.
The answer.....	90
From a country tenant, on the same occasion.....	91
The answer.....	ib.
From a tenant to a landlord, excusing delay of pay- ment.....	ib
The answer.....	92
From a merchant's clerk in Boston, to his master in the country.....	ib.
From a tradesman to a wholesale dealer, to delay payment of a sum of money.....	93
The answer.....	ib.
From a young man in the country to a merchant in New-York, offering correspondence.....	94
The merchant's answer.....	ib.

LETTERS ON LOVE, COURTSHIP, AND MARRIAGE.

To a lady.....	95
The answer.....	96
The lady's answer, rejecting.....	ib.
The gentleman to the lady's father, (supposing her letter to be favourable).....	97
The father's answer.....	ib.
From the gentleman to the lady, inclosing her father's reply.....	98
From a labouring man to his intended wife.....	ib.
The answer.....	99
The father's letter, inclosed in the foregoing.....	100
From a labouring man to his intended wife in the country.....	101
The answer.....	102
From a gentleman to a lady.....	ib.
The lady's answer.....	103
The gentleman's reply.....	104
Letter from the gentleman's mother.....	ib.

The young lady's answer.....	105
From the lady to her lover, inclosed in the above....	106
The gentleman's answer.....	107
The lady to her lover.....	108
The gentleman's answer.....	ib.
From a gentleman to a widow.....	ib.
A favourable answer.....	109
An unfavourable answer.....	110
Another answer.....	ib.
From a journeyman tradesman to his intended wife.	111
The answer.....	112
From an officer to a lady.....	ib.
To the lady's father, inclosed in the above.....	113
The lady's answer.....	114
The father's answer.....	115
From an officer, ordered abroad.....	116
The lady's answer.....	117
From a rich gentleman to a lady, with a proposal of marriage.....	119
The lady's answer.....	120
The gentleman's reply.....	121
The lady's reply.....	122
The gentleman's reply.....	123
From a young man commencing business in Boston, to his intended wife in the country.....	124
The answer.....	ib.
From a lady, rejecting a gentleman's addresses.....	125
A refusal of an offer of marriage by a widow.....	126
From a lady, rejecting a gentleman's addresses.....	ib.
From a sailor to his intended wife.....	127
The answer.....	128
From a jealous lover to his intended wife.....	ib.
The lady's answer.....	129
From a widower to a lady.....	130
The answer.....	131
The gentleman's rejoinder.....	132
The lady's answer.....	ib.
The brother's letter.....	133

The gentleman's answer to the lady's brother.....	134
The gentleman's answer to the lady.....	ib.
From a gentleman, breaking off a match with a lady.	135
From a gentleman to a lady.....	ib.
The answer.....	136
From a gentleman to a lady, inclosing a portrait of himself.....	137
The answer.....	ib.
From a lady to her lover, refusing a present.....	ib.
From a gentleman to a lady, greatly his superior in rank and fortune.....	138
The answer.....	139
Another answer.....	ib.
From an offended lover to his mistress.....	140
The lady's answer.....	ib.
Rejecting an offer of marriage.....	141

LETTERS BETWEEN FRIENDS AND RELATIVES.

From a gentleman in distress to his friend.....	141
The answer.....	142
From a young gentleman at school to his father.....	143
The father's answer.....	ib.
From a gentleman to his friend, being an apology for having disappointed him.....	144
Another.....	145
From a son-in-law in Philadelphia to his father-in- law in Boston.....	146
From a gentleman to his son, whose conduct dis- pleased him.....	147
The answer.....	148
Colonel Stedman to his son.....	ib.
From a gentleman to his friend, declining an invi- tation.....	150
From a gentleman in New-York to his friend in the country.....	151
From an elderly gentleman to his young friend, as a testimonial.....	ib.

From a person wishing to obtain a situation in a public office.....	152
From a young gentleman to his friend commanding a regiment.....	153
The answer.....	154
Another answer.....	ib.
From a gentleman to his friend, after an unfortunate difference with another.....	ib.
From a gentleman abroad to his wife in Philadelphia.	155
The answer.....	156
From a brother to his sister at boarding school.....	157
The sister's answer.....	158
From a gentleman to his friend, containing an invitation.....	159
The answer, accepting the invitation.....	ib.
Another answer, containing an excuse.....	160
From a gentleman to his friend, requesting his influence in procuring a situation for his son.....	ib.
The answer.....	161
From a gentleman, congratulating his friend on his marriage with an amiable young lady.....	162
From a widow lady to a female relation, in behalf of her daughters.....	163
The answer.....	164
Another answer.....	ib.
Reply to a letter, begging a favour, in the negative..	165
From a poor man to his daughter, just entered into service.....	166
From a father to his son, an apprentice.....	167
The answer.....	168
From an apprentice to an offended master.....	169
The answer.....	ib
Another answer.....	170
From a gentleman to his friend, announcing an intended visit.....	ib
The answer.....	171
Another answer.....	ib

CONTENTS.

xiii

From a gentleman in the country to his friend in town, with a present of game.....	171
The answer.....	172
To a brother-in-law abroad.....	ib.
From one friend to another, stating that he has something to communicate to his advantage.....	173
From a lady to a female friend.....	174
The answer.....	ib.
To a lady, refusing a favour.....	175
From an eminent literary character to a child, the daughter of a friend.....	ib.
From an eminent poet to a female relative.....	176
From the same to the same.....	179
From the same to the same.....	181
From an eminent English orientalist to his friend...	182
From the same to another friend.....	183
From the same to the same.....	184
From an American philosopher of eminence to his little sister.....	186
From the same to another sister.....	ib.
From the same to the same.....	189

LETTERS OF ADVICE.

From an English nobleman to his son.....	193
From an English statesman to his nephew.....	195
From the same to the same.....	197
From the same to the same.....	198
From the same to the same.....	201
From the same to the same.....	202
From the same to the same.....	204
From an eminent poet to his friend.....	ib.
From a gentleman to his son.....	207
From the same to the same.....	210
From the same to the same.....	211
From the same to the same.....	213
From the same to the same.....	215
From the same to the same.....	219
From the same to the same.....	222

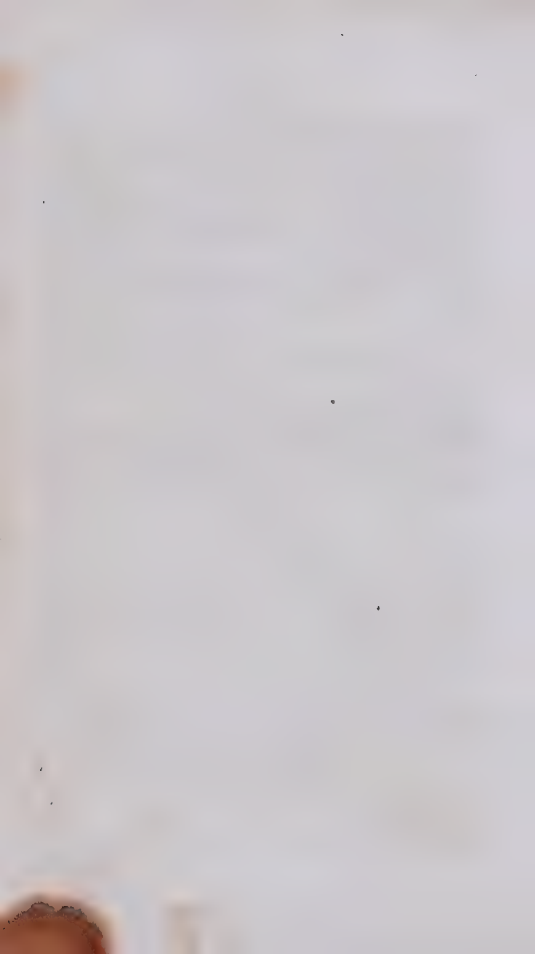
TRAVELLERS' LETTERS.

From an American gentleman to a lady.....	225
From the same to the same	226
From the author of the Sentimental Journey to Mr. Garriek.....	227
The same to a friend in Paris.....	229
From an English lady, a celebrated traveller, to a friend.....	230
From an English bishop in India to a friend in Eng- land.....	232
From the same to another friend.....	238
From the same to his mother.....	241
From a gentleman in Paris to a friend in England...	244
From the same to another friend.....	246
From the same in Barcelona to a friend in England.	250
From the same in Valencia to a friend.....	252
From the same in Alicant to a friend in England....	253

MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS.

From a journeyman tradesman to his intended wife.	255
The young woman's answer.....	ib.
From a young man, commencing business in New- York, to his intended wife in the country.....	256
The answer.....	257
The young man proposes marriage.....	258
The young woman's answer.....	259
From a young man commencing business to a female, the object of his acquaintance.....	ib.
The answer.....	260
From a country woman with a large family, to a re- spectable lady in the neighbourhood, soliciting a situation for one of her daughters.....	261
The answer.....	ib.
From a servant in New-York to her parents in the country.....	262
The parents' reply.....	263
From a country labouring man to a gentleman in the neighbourhood, soliciting a situation for his son.	264

The gentleman's answer.....	264
From a parent in the country to her daughter, a servant in New-York.....	265
The daughter's answer.....	ib.
From a young female in service, to her parents, informing them of her having received an offer of marriage.....	266
The parents' answer.....	267
From a working man to a respectable tradesman in want of an apprentice.....	ib.
The answer.....	268
From a young man to a female, soliciting permission to pay his addresses.....	ib.
The answer.....	269
From the young man to her parents.....	ib.
The parents' answer.....	ib.
From a poor man with a large family to a ship owner.....	270
The answer.....	ib.
From a person in the country to his friend in Philadelphia, soliciting a situation for his son.....	ib.
The answer.....	271
From an English nobleman to his son.....	ib.
From the same to the same.....	ib.
Complimentary cards and notes.....	277
Forms used in law.....	280
Receipts, Bills, &c.....	286
Receipts for making ink.....	288



THE
PARLOUR LETTER-WRITER.

OBSERVATIONS AND DIRECTIONS ON THE ART
OF LETTER-WRITING.

THERE are few school tasks which children may be induced to perform with greater pleasure, and which, at the same time, are of more advantage to them, than that of writing letters. Young people are naturally delighted with so happy a contrivance to make known their wants and their wishes to their absent friends, and to carry on a sort of conversation upon paper with persons at a distance. One would think that if they were properly assisted in their first attempts, they could not fail of making a rapid proficiency. How comes it then to pass that so few are capable of writing a good letter? Is it owing to the difficulty of the thing itself, or to some fundamental error in this part of education? My reasons for inclining to the latter opinion will be seen in the following remarks :

Whatever appears likely to be obtained with ease, or by common use, is in general too much disregarded. Hence the neglect of English grammar, the bad consequences of which are every day apparent ; and hence, also, the little pains taken to make children expert in the art of letter-writ

ing, which, next to speaking well, is an accomplishment of the greatest utility and importance. Even those who thought it deserving of some attention, fancied that practice alone must lead to excellence, and that they could simplify the whole art, by telling the young essayist that letters should be easy and natural, and should convey to the persons to whom we send them, just what we would say to those persons if we were with them. But general instructions are of little use, till they are unfolded, and applied to particular cases. Besides, the precept here laid down, with all its seeming simplicity, is not only vague, but fallacious. It has given a sort of sanction to the most careless, slovenly, and incoherent effusions; and the idea of being *easy and natural*, has occasioned greater errors in the epistolary style than a total disregard, or ignorance, of every rule. The benighted traveller pursues his way with more safety, even in the dark, than when he is guided by a delusive meteor.

Let us now examine the boasted accuracy, the much-admired simplicity of this precept, which has been so readily adopted by the fashionable world. It tells us, that *letters should be easy and natural*: so should every good piece of writing as well as a letter. The appearance of art and labour is not allowable in any species of composition. Even the poet, in his highest flights, must betray no indications of straining; and the great beauty of Homer's style in his *Iliad*, is its being as easy and as natural as that of Gay in the simplest of his fables. A precept, therefore, so vague as to be applicable to all kinds of writing, can never promote our particular improvement in the epistolary style, but may, on the contrary, retard it, by exciting inaccurate or confused ideas.

Every idle, thoughtless and superficial scribbler fancies, or flatters himself in the opinion, that *natural ease* consists in *dashing down* upon paper all his insipid trifles, his silly conceits, his tiresome repetitions—*Emittet quicquid in buccam venit*—He writes whatever comes uppermost, and discharges all his crudities at his friend, without decency and without mercy.

But he wishes to avoid appearing stiff, formal or affected. The affectation of slovenliness is certainly less excusable than that of nicety: as to being formal, though we may not stand upon ceremony with an intimate acquaintance, yet surely all our politeness is not to be reserved for strangers, and, lastly, with respect to stiffness, a little attention to the proper arrangement of our ideas, and to the choice of our words, is so far from destroying natural ease and elegance, that they cannot be acquired by any other means.

True ease in writing comes from art, not chance,
As those move easiest who have learned to dance.

POPE.

But the second part of the beforementioned precept for writing letters is, if possible, more vague and inaccurate than the first. It says, that they should convey to the persons to whom we send them, just what we would say to those persons if we were with them. This seems at first sight very plausible and proper. As letters are defined *a conversation between absent persons*, can we follow a better rule than to write to others as we would speak to them, if they were present? But in the first place, it is evident that this rule either has no meaning, or must suppose us to speak well: otherwise, to write as we speak would not be the way to compose a good letter. Is it not preposterous,

then, to lay down instructions for a learner, which are only fit for a master of eloquence?

We may go farther, and assert, that we ought to write better than we speak, even though we should speak well. In actual conversation, our hearers are often hurried away by the warmth and rapidity of utterance: many faults pass unobserved; others vanish in an instant, or are lost in the quick succession of new objects; even such of them as may happen to strike our hearers, if they are not too gross, are readily pardoned, as being the unstudied language of the moment. But when we write, we are supposed to have more time to select, to arrange, and to compress; our words have no longer any wings to fly away from observation: *littera scripta manet*; every tittle becomes a steady object of regard; and we may be assured that the reader will not forgive our careless and wanton abuse of his time and patience. Instead of such vague precepts, it will therefore be much better to lay before the pupil some examples, to illustrate the importance of pleasing those to whom he may have occasion to address himself, either in conversation or by letter. Let him know, that when he writes what is to be sent to another, he is drawing a picture of his own mind, and that he ought to be desirous of rendering it an agreeable likeness. But before he attempts to produce beauties, let him learn to avoid faults. Let him not aim at facility, till he can write with correctness. The appearance of study and caution is very allowable in his first essays. After he has acquired the habit of being regular and exact, frequent practice and a little instruction will make him master of that seeming ease and simplicity, which are so much admired in the epistolary style.

One of the greatest faults in a letter is excessive length. It is much better to be short than to be flat and tiresome. Young people are very apt to run into needless details. They write for themselves, without scarcely thinking of the person to whom they are writing. But in correcting this fault, the greatest delicacy is to be used. While you teach them to suppress insipid trifles and frivolous circumstances, take care not to chill the ardour of their fancy, nor to prune with too severe a hand the wild luxuriances of their genius. Quintilian's observations on this head, and the rules which he has laid down for the guidance of every rational instructor, are not less admirable for their accuracy than their elegance.

"A perfect piece of composition," says he, "can neither be required nor expected from a child: but I cannot help having a good opinion of the fertile wit that attempts nobly, though it may sometimes not keep within the bounds of precision. Nor do I ever dislike superfluities in a young beginner. I would therefore have a master, like a tender nurse, indulge the young minds of his pupils in the most delicious nutriment, suffering them to feast, as it were, on the sweet milk of eloquence, and to enjoy, without restraint, the gaiety of florid thoughts and expressions. Time will soon bring the pampered body to a due consistence, and will give great hopes of a sound constitution; whereas the child that is suddenly formed in all its limbs, portends future leanness and infirmity. Let boys at an early age make many bold attempts; let them invent, and take pleasure in their inventions, though these may not yet be sufficiently just and accurate. A rich fruitfulness may be easily corrected; but absolute sterility will defeat every effort.

“The boy that discloses his turn of genius by a few tokens of judgment, affords me but slender hopes of solid natural parts. I would have him enlarge upon and spread out his subject to more than a just extent. Time will lessen the exuberance; reason will polish and rub off a great deal of it; and it will even gradually wear away by frequent exercise. There ought to be something of substance to bear clipping and filing; and this will be the case if the plate be not too thinly wrought in the beginning, so as to break on the first deep incision of the graving tool. My sentiments on this head will not appear singular or extraordinary to any person who has read that declaration of Cicero, that he wished to see young men display a fertile genius.

“For these reasons a master whose method of teaching is of a dry turn, is very unfit for children, and may prove as injurious to them as a parched and dry soil must be to young plants. From him they give into a dearth of conception; they become low and grovelling in their ideas; and never attempt to rise above the level of common discourse. A meagre state is health to them; what they call judgment is real debility; and while they think it enough to be free from faults, they do not consider that it is a signal fault to be destitute of beauties.

* * * * *

“It will not be amiss to hint, in how great a degree youth are discouraged by a master hard to be pleased, and rather too severe in correcting their performances. They despair; they fret; they at length hate study; and what hurts them most is their attempting nothing, whilst they labour under continual apprehensions. The exam.

ple of vine-dressers may not in this respect be inapplicable to masters. They do not prune the vine, while its branches are tender, naturally supposing that it dreads the knife, and cannot yet endure the least wound. A teacher should act with the same delicacy, and should know that remedies, harsh in their nature, require to be mitigated by something gentle. Some parts of his pupil's composition he may praise; for others he may make a little allowance: this he may alter, giving a reason why he does so; and that he may embellish, by introducing something of his own. It will be also sometimes of service to dictate the chief parts of a subject, which the pupil may copy and enlarge upon, and thus be deceived into the flattering and encouraging idea, that it is a work of his own production. But should his style happen to be so faulty as not to admit of correction, in this case it was customary with me to have recourse to an expedient, which I always found successful. I went over the same subject again, and having explained it in all its parts, I advised him to work it up anew, for that he was capable of doing it still better. The hope of success was a great incentive to his study and exertions. Others are to be treated differently, but all according to their age and capacity. It was usual with me to tell boys, whose essays were too bold or too fanciful, that for the present I was pleased with such flights of genius; but that the time would come when I should not indulge them in the like liberties. By this treatment they prided themselves in their wit, and were not deceived in their judgment."

The progress of youth, the love of learning, and the probability of their ever attaining to oratorical eminence, depends so much on a judicious method

of correcting their first compositions, that I cannot help conjuring every teacher to impress those precepts strongly upon his mind; to enter into the spirit of them; to make them the rule of his conduct; and not to set up his own vain and fanciful opinions against the experience and authority of the first of masters. There is no part of his subject which Quintillian has discussed with greater ability, or recommended with greater earnestness, than this; and let it be remembered, that all men of taste and judgment concur in acknowledging his *Institutes* to be not only the best written, but the most instructive, and the most useful work, on the art of training youth to eloquence, that ancient or modern times have ever yet produced.

The remarks here made on the propriety of encouraging the early effusions of genius, are by no means inconsistent with the introductory caution against prolixity. The latter is owing to silliness, or to want of thought: but instances of the former sort are proofs of a rich and vigorous mind, lavish of its wealth, and exulting in the display of its powers. All that need be done, therefore, is to check the young writer when he begins to trifle. He must not be fettered too soon by the rules of strict brevity. These I shall reserve for the higher stages of improvement. I shall then explain to him the nature, the importance, and the beauty of conciseness: but I had much rather find him copious in his first productions. I should almost despair of my pupil were I to see him, like an old miser,

Poising his scale of words with nicest care,
Nor leaving one superfluous atom there.

HAYLEY.

The next fault in letter-writing, is a want of

regularity and of just connexion. When people write at random, and without a previous consideration of the subject, they often mention that first which should be reserved for the last; they separate parts which should be united, and unite those which should be separated; they forget many material circumstances in their proper place, and then awkwardly introduce them in the shape of after-thoughts. Any instance of this kind must not be overlooked even in one's earliest attempts. He must be accustomed, from the very beginning, to think seriously of his subject before he takes the pen in hand; to draw up in his own mind a distinct plan of the whole; and to arrange its several parts with propriety. They must be adapted to each other; their union must be close; and if various matters are introduced in the same letter, the transitions should be clear and easy. Order is visible in all the works of nature; it is not less requisite in every production of art. A loose, indigested manner of writing betrays a false taste, a narrow conception, or an unpardonable negligence.

A disregard of the nice distinctions of character is another fault, to which young persons are very liable. It is not enough to consider well the nature of the subject on which we are going to write: we should be no less attentive to the rank, fortune, and temper of the persons with whom we correspond. A proper sense of their station and character, and of the relation in which we stand to them, will assist and direct us in what we ought to say, and the manner of saying it. They are our superiors, our equals, or our inferiors: we are upon a footing of familiarity, or of bare politeness; they are well known to us, or perhaps entire strangers. In short, the nature of our intercourse

with others may be infinitely diversified. All may require different modes of address. The least indecorum in this respect will often render a letter ridiculous or offensive.

After a pretty long course of exercise, chiefly with a view to the correction of those fundamental errors, the pupil should be made acquainted with the remaining beauties and characteristics of the epistolary style; these are *purity*, *neatness* and *simplicity*. The two first require but little explanation. The last, though in every body's mouth, is understood by very few; and as it is of the utmost consequence, I shall presently endeavour to give clear and accurate ideas of it in the words of the best letter-writer, if not of the greatest orator, whose works have been handed down to posterity.

Purity consists in the proper use of such words and phrases as are said to be of native growth, to distinguish them from exotics, transplanted from foreign languages, or raised in the hot-beds of affectation and conceit. If we apply this general character of a pure style to compositions in our own tongue, we may say that purity requires every word, every sentence, to be strictly English; that it will have nothing fetched from abroad, nothing forced at home, nothing obsolete, nothing new-coined, nothing, in short, but the genuine idiom of our country, as sanctioned by the practice of our best writers and speakers.

A multitude of Latin words have, of late years, been poured in upon us. They may sometimes have a good effect in the higher species of composition by their expressiveness, or their dignity; but in letters, or in common discourse, besides the risk of not being understood, such words give language an air of pedantry and stiffness, which is extremely

disgusting. The interlarding of our style with French phrases is still less excusable. The writer, or speaker, who does so, instead of being admired for his foreign attainments, is laughed at for his affectation, or despised for his ignorance of the copiousness and significancy of his mother tongue.

The great beauty of a pure style is its being plain and intelligible to every body. It is like a smooth, limpid stream, on which the eye rests with pleasure, as it can see every thing distinctly to the bottom. Swift's works are the most perfect models of this kind of writing to be met with in the English language.

Neatness implies purity and something more. It is not satisfied, though all the words and phrases should be plain, clear, and taken from established use; it farther requires a happy choice of whatever is most delicate and refined in common conversation. Like purity, it rejects the aid of foreign ornament; but it wishes to show its native graces to advantage; at the same time it carefully conceals its desire to please. The words, though well chosen, are familiar; the figures, if any, are short and correct, not bold or glowing; the turns are lively, but natural and unaffected: the sentences are always clear and sometimes bright, yet never look as if they had been polished with a file; and while harshness is avoided at the close of every period, the cadences are so various as not to excite the least suspicion of musical nicety. Sir William Temple's letters abound with examples of this modest elegance.

Simplicity of style, which includes purity and neatness, and superadds to both a peculiar excellence of its own, is thus characterized by Cicero, whose letters are the best illustration of his pre-

cepts and remarks. Happily for the English scholar, Melmoth's translation of those letters retains all the beauty, the spirit, and the simplicity of the originals.

"The simple style is void of all elevation, conformable to the laws of custom, and differing from the common way of speaking rather in reality than in appearance. For this reason, persons who are totally unskilled in the art of eloquence fancy they could readily express themselves in the same manner. It appears, indeed, at first sight, very easy to be imitated, though nothing will be found less so by him who makes the trial."

"When easy writings," says the Guardian, "fall into the hands of an ordinary reader, they appear to him so natural and unlaboured, that he immediately resolves to write, and fancies that all he has to do is to take no pains. Thus he thinks indeed simply, but the thoughts, not being chosen with judgment, are not beautiful. He, it is true, expresses himself plainly, but flatly withal. Again, if a man of vivacity takes it into his head to write this way, what self-denial must he undergo when bright points of wit occur to his fancy! How difficult will he find it to reject florid phrases, and pretty embellishments of style! So true it is, that simplicity is of all things the hardest to be copied, and ease to be acquired with the greatest labour."

"Although this kind of writing does not seem to require any great strength, or body, yet it should always have such a degree of vigour and good plight, as may show it to be in perfect health."

Simplicity is not of a very florid complexion; yet it never wears a consumptive appearance. Each thought has its proper extent, and the flow of lan-

guage is sufficiently kept up, but without any swell, or redundancy.

“But let us first free it from the shackles of number.”

By the *shackles of number*, Cicero here means the strict rules of harmony, a musical distribution of the parts and pauses, sounding words, and tuneful periods, all of which are misplaced in a familiar letter, and totally inconsistent with simplicity.

“We may likewise add, that it is not necessary to be at the pains to cement word to word with a scrupulous exactness: for those breaks, which are made by the meeting or collision of vowels, have now and then a good effect, as they discover a pleasing negligence, and show the writer to be more solicitous about things than sounds.”

In poetry the meeting of vowels has a disagreeable effect, which Pope so well exemplifies in the very line where he censures that fault—

Tho’ oft the ear the open vowels tire.

A *hiatus* is also to be avoided as much as possible in any piece of regular or elaborate composition in prose. But in a letter, we are apt to neglect those little attentions, and the more readily, as we do not seek to close our ranks, in order to make a single impression by the union of several forces.

“Being now freed as to what relates to the measured flow and combination of the words, let us see what it has to observe in other respects. For though these short and unconnected phrases require care, yet art should by no means appear. The great point is to preserve a sort of industrious negligence. It is with simplicity of style, as with many women who look best in an undress—always agreeable,

without affecting to appear so. Here, therefore, all the glitter of ornament, like that of jewels and diamonds, must be laid aside; nor must we apply even the crimping-iron to adjust the hair. There must be no paint, no artful washes, to heighten the complexion; but neatness and elegance must be our only aim.

* * * * *

“To render it lively and agreeable, it must be intermixed with ingenious thoughts that seem to break upon us unexpectedly.”

But as these thoughts depend on a fruitfulness of genius, and a peculiar turn of mind, they are not at every writer’s command. Good sense, however, will always supply their place.

“Every advantageous use may also be made of a nice and delicately seasoned pleasantry. Of this there are two sorts, one of which is called gaiety, or humour, and the other consists in what we term smart sayings, and quick repartees. The first is employed when we relate an agreeable story, and the latter in giving or retorting a stroke of ridicule.”

We should be extremely reserved on the head of pleasantry, because it is never good unless well placed, and it is difficult to hit the mark justly in a letter, as one shoots at such a distance. As to sallies of wit, it is still more dangerous to let them fly at random. Repeat the smart sayings of others, if you will, or relate part of some droll adventure, to enliven your letter; but the least fondness for sarcastic jokes, will expose you to the imputation of malice.

“All affected witticisms should likewise be avoided, as they are generally cold and insipid.

“Lastly, we should be very cautious how we employ the treasures of eloquence; I mean those

ornaments, of which some consist in the thoughts, and others in the words.

“Such of them as are too striking must be avoided, that, if possible, there may not be the slightest appearance, or even a suspicion, of a design to please.”

The epistolary style admits all the figures of words and thoughts, as they are the expressions of nature herself; but admits them after its own manner. It delights in modest grace, but rejects flourishes. It is not the language of the vulgar; it is the style of oratory reduced to the level of common conversation.

Any further remarks on this head may tend to confuse the young letter-writer. With clear ideas of the principles here laid down, let him read attentively, after this volume, select letters from Cicero, Sir William Temple, Swift, Arbuthnot, Madam de Sevigne, and Lady Mary Wortley Montague; and let him endeavour by reiterated essays to approach to their excellence.

STYLE OF ADDRESS

FOR

Public Officers in the United States.

FOR THE PRESIDENT.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES; or, *His Excellency the President of the United States.*

FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT.

His Excellency G. C., Vice President of the United States.

FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

D. W——, Esq. *Senator*; or

H. R——, Esq. *Member of the House of Representatives.*

H. W——, Esq. M. H. R. (i. e. Member of the House of Representatives.)

FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE.

R. C——, Esq. *Secretary of the Senate.*

FOR THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

H. T. D——, Esq. *Clerk H. R.*

FOR JUDGES.

Hon. J. W——, *Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.*

Hon. H. O——, *Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.*

Hon. W. C. D——, *Judge of the Court of Probate.*

Hon. H. R. C——, *Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas.*

FOR HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

Hon. J. R. I——, *Secretary of the Treasury.*

FOR GOVERNORS OF STATES.

His Excellency L. L——, *Governor of the State of Maine.*

FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS.

His Honour J. J——, *Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.*

FOR MEMBERS OF THE STATE SENATE.

Hon. J. R——, *Senator.*

FOR MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE.

W. H——, *House of Representatives.*

For all Civil Officers holding commissions from the President of the United States, or from the Governors of States.

H. R——, Esq.

For all Officers of the Army holding the rank of Major, or any superior rank.

H. W——, Esq. U. S. A. &c.

For all Officers of the Navy holding the rank of Captain.

W. W——, Esq. U. S. N. &c.

For Officers of the State Militia of the rank of Major, or any superior rank.

W. W. L——, Esq.

FOR JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

H. R. L——, Esq. *Justice of the Peace.*

FOR COUNSELLORS AT LAW.

H. W. L——, Esq. *Counsellor at Law.*

FOR BISHOPS.

The Right Rev. W. R——, *Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of ——.*

FOR CLERGYMEN.

The Rev. H. L——, &c. or Rev. H. L——, or Rev. Dr. L——.

COLLEGE PROFESSORS.

L. H——, Esq. *Professor of Law in the University of ——.*

W. W. C——, D. D. LL. D. *Hollis Professor of Divinity in H——— University.*

Officers of the army, navy, militia and civil list, of ranks inferior to those above designated, are addressed with the addition of the name of their office, regiment, &c.

REMARKS

ON TITLES AND STYLES OF ADDRESS.

MOST of the abovementioned titles and additions, are such as are customarily used in legal papers, contracts, commissions, &c.; but courtesy being more liberal than law, goes much farther, especially in the use of the term *esquire*, which appears to be applied indiscriminately to all men who pay a capitation tax.

Many persons are accustomed to write *honourable* before a man's name, and *esquire* after it. But this seems to be ascribing different ranks to the same person at the same time; and is, therefore, in bad taste. So, indeed, is the accumulation of titles and additions to a name in any case. In addressing to a person holding office, any document or paper having reference to that office, it is strictly proper and in good taste, to write out in full, after his name, the title belonging to him in the character in which he is addressed. But in all letters on private business, friendship, or any of the common affairs of life, it is proper and becoming to use a very simple and modest style of address, as *Mr. A. B.*; or, if the law awards him that designation, *A. B. Esq.* Any more exalted title in an ordinary letter, is seldom preferred by a man of sense and genuine republicanism.

THE
PARLOUR LETTER-WRITER.

LETTERS ON BUSINESS.

The successor of a Tradesman retiring from Business, to a Wholesale Merchant in Philadelphia.

Reading, June 4th, 18—.

Sir—Having arranged with my friend, Mr. —, who is retiring from business, to take the whole of the concern off his hands, I propose continuing the same upon the plan he has for many years successfully pursued, and which has been crowned with so happy a result.

Should it be agreeable, in all respects, to serve me upon the same terms you have been accustomed to supply him, you will oblige me by executing the inclosed order as early as possible.

Mr. — writes to you by the same post, and I doubt not but his letter will afford you every satisfaction as to the integrity of his successor,

Who, is, sir,

Your obedient, humble servant.

MR.

The Answer.

Philadelphia, June 5th, 18—

Sir—I received yours of yesterday's date, and am happy to hear of my friend, Mr. —, retiring from business, and feel assured that by your pur

suing the same respectable and steady course which he has, an equally successful result must await you.

I feel much pleasure and satisfaction in executing your order, after the honourable testimony which he has borne towards you.

The goods may be expected by you at the latter end of the week, by the —— wagon. Trusting that they will give you entire satisfaction, and that I shall continue to be favoured with your orders, in the usual way,

I remain, sir,

Your very obedient servant.

Mr.

*The Successor of a deceased Tradesman to a
Wholesale Merchant in Philadelphia.*

May 3d, 18—.

Sir—In consequence of the unexpected death of Mr. ——, I have made an arrangement with his widow to take the business and remaining stock in trade off her hands; and being well aware of the upright manner in which you served my late worthy friend, I shall continue his connexion with you.

You will oblige me by forwarding the inclosed order immediately. Herewith you will receive a check for the amount, it being my intention to pay for all my goods when ordered, expecting, of course, the usual discount will be allowed.

Upon receiving a statement of my late friend's accounts with you, an immediate settlement of the same shall be made.

I am, sir,

Your obedient, humble servant.

Mr.

The Merchant's Answer

Philadelphia, May 9th, 18—

Sir—Information had reached me of the decease of my old friend, previous to the receipt of your obliging letter; yet I cannot but rejoice that his business has fallen to the lot of so able a successor.

I must also acknowledge my obligation for your very kind order, which I have this day forwarded to you, in ten bales, marked —, by the Mary, of this port, Robert Jones, master. You will perceive by the invoice, that I have allowed the usual discount for cash; and you may be assured, I shall serve you with the greatest punctuality and honour.

The late Mr. —'s account shall be made out and transmitted to you, agreeably to your request, though the amount due to me is a mere trifle. Hoping a continuance of your favours,

I am, sir,

Your obliged humble servant.

Mr.

From a Young Man commencing Business, offering Correspondence.

York, May 7th, 18—.

Gentlemen—Having commenced business on my own account, and being well acquainted with your honourable treatment of my late master, in expectation of receiving the same, I offer you my correspondence, which, if it be agreeable, you will signify the same by sending goods as per order immediately, the money for which I have herewith inclosed. In future, I shall expect the usual trade credit, referring you for my responsibility to

Messrs. Jones and Robinson; assuring you, at the same time, of the greatest punctuality on my part.

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant.

Messrs.

The Order to follow here.

The Answer.

Philadelphia, May 20th, 18—.

Sir—We have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, and are greatly obliged by the preference given to our house.

The order you have favoured us with was this day sent off by the York wagon, in nine cases, with this mark, ☒, which we hope will reach you in safety. You may rely upon the articles being of the first quality. We beg leave to observe that your late master has sent us a most excellent description of your general conduct, and to assure you that we do not entertain the smallest doubt of your punctuality in making us due returns.

We have also the pleasure of returning you herewith the sum of \$——, being the usual discount allowed on the amount of your order, for cash. Wishing you every degree of reasonable success,

We are, sir,

Your much obliged servants.

Mr.

*From a Wholesale Dealer to his Correspondent,
requesting Payment.*

Philadelphia, June 4th, 18—.

Sir—A severe temporary pressure for cash, compels me to solicit the settlement of the small account existing between us.

I must entreat you not to attribute this application to any other motive than necessity, which I will fully explain when I have the pleasure of seeing you. I must also desire that you will not place yourself under any inconvenience to send the whole amount, as a part of the sum due will be sufficient, and much serve,

Sir, yours truly.

Mr..

The Answer.

Lancaster, June 5th, 18—.

Dear Sir—I am truly sorry to hear of the pressure on your circumstances, and rejoice that it is in my power, without the smallest inconvenience, to send you the whole amount of your bill.

I have also sent herewith a check for \$——, on my banker, for which you will return me goods as per order inclosed. Trusting you will speedily surmount your present difficulty,

I am, dear sir,

Yours very truly.

Mr

Answer in the Negative.

Lancaster, June 5th, 18—.

Sir—I am sorry to hear of your temporary distress, and lament that it is not in my power to comply with your demand: but I will remit the amount of your bill as soon as I can call in some bills due to me.

I am, sir, yours, &c.

Mr

Another.

Lancaster, June 5th, 18—

Sir—I am truly sorry it is not in my power to comply with your request at present. I am in expectation of a remittance, in the early part of next week, when you may rely upon an immediate attention being paid to your wishes.

I am, sir, yours, &c.

Mr.

From a Tradesman in distress, to his Principal Creditor, requesting time for Payment.

July 9th, 18—.

Sir—Unexpected circumstances compel me to solicit from you a period of twelve months for the payment of my account, it being impossible for me to liquidate your demands at present, which is principally owing to the failure of several of my country customers, and some severe family afflictions.

I am confident you have known me sufficiently long to be convinced of my probity; and I doubt not but that you, as my principal creditor, will interest yourself to procure me the same time from the other merchants with whom I correspond. And you may be assured, that at the appointed period every demand shall be honourably discharged.

I am, sir,

Your very humble servant.

——— Esq.

Another.

York, July 7th, 18—.

Sir—Owing to several heavy losses which I have experienced through the failure of some of

my country customers, and heavy expenses arising from severe domestic afflictions, I am compelled to solicit time to enable me to meet the various demands which will shortly be made upon me. I trust that the uniform punctuality with which I have liquidated my accounts, and the integrity of my character, will be of some weight in disposing you to a compliance.

I have also to solicit that you, sir, being my principal creditor, will aid me in endeavouring to obtain the like favour from the rest of my correspondents.

The shortest period I can name for the payment of my debts, will be twelve months; at the conclusion of which time, I have not the smallest hesitation in stating, that every demand upon me shall be faithfully discharged, should I be favoured with the lenity required.

I remain sir,

Your obedient and very humble servant.

Mr.

Answer.

July 10th, 18—.

Dear Sir—I am sorry to hear of your distress, and can assure you that it gives me pleasure, by a compliance with your request, to convince you how greatly I respect your character, and how much I wish to serve you.

I have waited upon your other creditors, and they, together with myself, agree to allow you eighteen months for the settlement of your present account, and in the interim to supply you with goods as usual. I am, dear sir, with sincere wishes for your greater prosperity,

Yours, very faithfully

Mr.

Another Answer.

Philadelphia, July 10th, 18—

Sir—Having called a meeting of your creditors, I am extremely hurt to say, they have determined upon granting no additional time for the liquidation of their demands; and I am directed by them to inform you, that unless the money due to them is paid within twenty-one days, a commission of bankruptcy will be issued against you.

I am, sir, yours, &c.

Mr.

From a Merchant at Madeira, to one in Philadelphia, directing an Exchange of Goods.

Madeira, July 2d, 18—.

Sir—I hereby send this letter of advice to say, that on the 24th of June, I shipped on board the Jane, Captain Williams, ten pipes of Madeira, marked X, which you will be good enough to dispose of; and with the produce, after deducting a proper commission for your trouble, purchase such goods as you may imagine will be most likely to find a good market here (observing also to complete the inclosed order.) These you will be good enough to ship by the first vessel from Philadelphia to this port.

Not doubting but you will select the best and cheapest article you can procure of American manufacture,

I am, sir, your humble servant.

Mr.

The Answer.

Philadelphia, Sept. 20th, 18—.

Sir—I received yours in due time. The ten pipes of wine, marked X, were safely lodged in the

custom-house. I lost no time in advertising them for sale, in consequence of which I disposed of them for \$——. This sum, agreeable to your commands, I have laid out to the best advantage; and yesterday I shipped on board the Adrian, Captain White, seven bales for you, marked IOI, which I hope you will receive in good order, and find them to be such as you desire to have.

I am, sir,

Your very obedient servant.

Mr.

From a Country Tradesman, containing an Order for Goods.

Harrisburg, June 20th, 18—.

Gentlemen—I will thank you immediately to send me the goods, as per order inclosed.

I must here remark, that in your completion of my last order, several of the articles, especially the paper, was of an inferior quality. You will be careful to avoid this error in future.

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant.

Messrs.

The Order to follow here.

The Answer.

Philadelphia, June 10th, 18—.

Sir—We have this day completed, and sent off by the wagon, your obliging order.

We are greatly concerned at your complaint of some of the goods last received. It must have originated in an error of our packer; but on your

returning them, we will credit you to the full amount.

Hoping to be favoured with your future orders,

We are, sir, yours, truly

Mr.

From a Country Bookseller, to one in Philadelphia.

Harriburg, June 4th, 18--.

Sir—Herewith you will receive your catalogue, which I have perused, and marked such works as I have selected with my initials. You will, therefore, oblige me by packing those selected, and sending them, as early as possible, by Jones's wagon, from the Star Inn; and place the same to my account, at the usual credit.

I am, sir, yours, &c.

Mr. .

The Answer.

Philadelphia, June 4th, 18--.

Sir—I received yours of the 4th inst. and have put up the works according to your selection, with the exception of Dr. Chalmers' works, which are out of print; a second edition of this work will be out in a few days, when you may depend upon their being immediately forwarded to you.

I have drawn a bill on you for the amount, which you will have the goodness to accept and return by post.

I am, sir, your obliged servant,

Mr.

Application for the Character of a Clerk.

Brighton, July 7th, 18--.

Sir—A man of the name of Simmonds having applied to me to fill the situation of clerk in my

establishment, and having referred me to you with respect to his capability and character, I shall feel obliged by your transmitting the necessary particulars, with regard to him, as early as possible, as I am desirous of being immediately suited. Requesting you to accept my apology for the trouble I have given you,

I remain, sir,

Your obliged servant

——— Esq.

The Answer.

Philadelphia, July 9th, 18—.

Sir—In answer to your letter, I beg leave to state that Robert Simmonds was in my service, as clerk, for the space of six years; during the whole of which time I had every reason to be satisfied with his conduct, and have every reason to believe you will find him a confidential person.

He was discharged from my service at his own request.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your very obedient servant.

——— Esq.

Another Answer.

Philadelphia, July 8th, 18—.

Sir—I can by no means recommend you to employ Robert Simmonds, whose character you desire to be informed of.

He was discharged from my service from strong presumptive evidence of dishonesty, and continual intoxication. He is also in general extremely impertinent.

I am, sir, your obedient servant.

——— Esq.

Requesting a Loan of Money.

Friday Morning.

Sir—Having been disappointed of a considerable remittance from the country, I feel myself particularly pressed for a small supply of cash, having to take up a bill of a large amount, due this day; I have, therefore, to request you will have the kindness to oblige me with the loan of \$120, for ten days, when it shall be punctually repaid you.

Yours, very respectfully.

Mr

The Answer.

Friday Evening.

Dear Sir—You are sufficiently convinced of my friendship to be aware how anxious I am at all times to serve you. Inclosed you will find a check upon my bankers for \$120, which you need not be anxious to repay me under three months.

I am, dear sir,

Your sincere friend.

Mr.

Another Answer.

Friday Evening.

Sir—Being placed in much the same situation as yourself, I can only observe, with truth, that I sympathize with you on the unpleasant circumstance, besides the regret I experience in not having the opportunity of serving my friend, which you

•

must be assured I would at all times cheerfully embrace.

I am, sir,

Your sincere friend and well wisher.

Mr.

Demanding an immediate Payment of a Sum of Money.

Philadelphia, June 1st, 18—.

Sir—A severe pressure in pecuniary matters compels me to address you in a manner which may not perhaps be pleasing.

The sum you are indebted to me ought, in justice, to have been paid six months since, from which period you have constantly trifled with me, by offering trivial excuses.

You must be aware, that I cannot possibly carry on my business, and pay my creditors punctually, unless regular returns are made to me; and I have only to add, that unless you send me a remittance, I must (however reluctantly I may do it) pursue other means for the recovery of my due.

I shall conclude, sir, by recommending you, if you are anxious to prosper in trade, to be diligent in your business, and, above all things, to be punctual in the payment of your bills.

I am, sir, your obedient servant.

Mr.

The Answer.

Philadelphia, June 2d, 18—.

Sir—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, and confess that you have some reason to be

displeased at my inattention; yet, sir, I can assure you that unavoidable circumstances (on my part) have alone prevented me from discharging your bill.

The fact is, I could not collect the money due from the little shopkeepers whom I supply, and to whom I am compelled to give long credit. I have now, however, received some bills, in consequence of which you will find inclosed an order on my agent, (payable at sight,) for \$74, being the full amount of your demand. And in the course of next week, you will receive an order from me for an extensive assortment of goods.

I am, sir, your humble servant.

Mr.

Another Answer

Sir—Unavoidable circumstances prevent me from immediately complying with your demand. I can assure you I have used every exertion in my power to send you a remittance, but without success. I have no doubt but I shall be enabled to do so next week, and to effect a final settlement within two months from the present time. Trusting you will not put me to the expense and inconvenience attendant on harsh measures,

I remain, sir, yours &c.

Mr.

Complaint of a Delay in the Execution of an Order.

August 12th, 18—

Gentlemen—The order I sent you on the 4th inst. has not yet been forwarded: I must remark, that it is not the first time I have been inconve-

nanced by your delay, and unless you are more punctual in future, I shall be under the necessity of opening an account with another firm.

I am, gentlemen, yours, &c.

Messrs.

The Answer.

Sir—We have to apologize for our seeming inattention, but being out of some of the articles necessary to complete your order, we thought it would be better to wait till we could send the whole which we have this day done, per the wagon bound to your place. The strictest punctuality shall be in future attended to.

We are, sir, your obliged servants.

Mr.

Requesting time for the Payment of Money.

Lancaster, June 20th, 18—.

Sir—Circumstances having put it totally out of my power to settle your account, has, I can assure you, caused me much inquietude; the failure of the — Bank, and long sickness in my family, have combined in a temporary pressure upon me. I have therefore to request you will accommodate me with six weeks for the settlement of your demand. From our long intercourse, I have no doubt of your compliance.

I am, dear sir, yours truly.

Mr.

The Answer.

New-York, June 22d, 18—

Dear sir—Before the receipt of yours of the 20th ult. I was in possession of the particulars which have caused a temporary embarrassment in your affairs, and cannot but sympathize with you on account of your loss, and especially in your domestic afflictions. I have not been the least apprehensive respecting our account, and beg you will take your own time for its discharge. Hoping to receive your orders as usual,

I remain, sir, yours very sincerely.

Mr.

Another Answer.

June 20th, 18—.

Dear sir—I am sorry my circumstances will not permit of my complying with your request; for being urgently pressed for cash myself, I must be under the painful necessity of repeating it.

I am, sir, yours, &c.

Mr.

From a Journeyman to a Gentleman, requesting Pecuniary Assistance.

October 12th, 18—.

Respected Sir—Your general character for humanity towards the distressed, has alone induced me to make this application; nor should I have had the presumption to do so now, would not my character for industry and honesty bear the strictest investigation; for which purpose, respected sir, I

am permitted to give you a reference to the following gentlemen: Mr. Thomas Jones and Mr Robert Watson.

My late employer died last Tuesday, and his executors have made me an offer of the business at an easy rate, by which I should be enabled to support my family with comfort, and, perhaps, in time, accumulate money; but, alas! I have not sufficient for this purpose by \$50. Thus pressed, sir, and unwilling to lose the flattering chance thus presented to me, I have taken the liberty to solicit your assistance. Be assured, sir, your money shall be safe, and repaid you in the course of twelve months, till which period I will, if you please, give you a judgment bond on the stock in trade.

I trust, sir, you will pardon the liberty I have thus unwarrantably taken, and which nothing but your well-known philanthropy could excuse.

I am, sir, with the highest respect,

Your very humble servant.

—, Esq.

The Answer.

October 15th, 18—.

Sir—In acknowledgment of your letter, I must observe that, from the reports I have heard in your favour, I have not the smallest objection to accommodate you with the sum of \$50, without interest, for three years; with the help of which I have no doubt but you will prove successful. In short, there will be no fear of it, if you continue to be equally honest and industrious, as you have hitherto been.

You may rely upon my interest with my friends, for them to employ you; and if you will call on

me at an early hour to-morrow morning, I will have the money ready for your use.

I am, sir, yours sincerely.

Mr.

Another.

July 5th, 18—.

Respected Sir—An opportunity having now presented itself, by the decease of my late master, of laying a permanent foundation for my future prospects in life, I have ventured to address you on the subject, having every reason to believe, from the sentiments you have hitherto expressed concerning my welfare, that your kind assistance will not be withheld under present circumstances. Messrs. Wilson and Parker, the executors of my late master, have offered me the business and stock in trade, and lease of the premises, for the sum of \$150, which sum is really trifling when compared with the prospect and advantages which, I am confident, must attend the closing upon such an offer. My industry and frugality have secured to me two-thirds of the above sum; and pardon me, sir, when I state that I have sanguine hopes that, upon due consideration, you will not allow such an opportunity to pass away, by withholding your assistance at this critical juncture, since it is by no means probable that such a prospect will ever again offer, for the security of my future welfare and happiness. Earnestly soliciting your generous attention to my request.

I remain sir,

Your most obedient servant

Mr.

Answer.

July 7th, 18—.

My young Friend—I have taken your letter into consideration, and must agree with you that such an opportunity seldom offers, to a young man desirous of establishing himself, on such a basis and upon such terms. There is one statement in your letter, which not only induced me to afford the matter due consideration, but weighed much with me in coming to a conclusion, which is, that you have been so considerate and frugal as to be already possessed of two-thirds of the sum required, and trusting that an advancement of your station in life, will rather add to than diminish your precaution for future contingencies, I shall feel much pleasure in complying with your request; allowing, at the same time, three years for the liquidation of the loan, without interest. You can call upon me next Tuesday, when the sum you request shall be ready for you: at the same time you can place the lease under my care.

I am, sir,

Your sincere friend and well-wisher.

Mr.

Requesting a Favour.

June 14th, 18—.

My dear Sir—I shall feel myself particularly obliged, if you will have the kindness to call on Mr. Jackson, druggist, No. 7, Dey-street, and pay him, on my account, the money sent herewith, \$10; observing to take his receipt in full of all demands for the same.

I am sorry to give you so much trouble, but

when an opportunity offers, shall be happy to be of service to you.

I am, dear sir,

Your obliged, humble servant.

Mr.

The Answer.

June 16th, 18—.

Dear Sir—I duly received yours, and can assure you that I shall always be happy to transact any business for you. Agreeably to your directions, I paid the \$10 to Mr. Jackson, and have inclosed you his receipt for same.

With best wishes for yourself and family,

I am, dear sir, yours truly.

Mr.

Soliciting Employment.

June 16th, 18—.

Sir—Being informed that you want a steady person to fill the situation of clerk, I beg permission to make you a tender of my services. I can have an unexceptionable character for propriety of conduct and abilities. In addition to which, I can give any security you may please to require.

The favour of an early answer is requested, when, if agreeable, I will do myself the honour of waiting upon you.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Yours, very respectfully.

—, Esq.

The Answer.

June 17th, 18—.

Sir—In reply to your letter, I have to state that, provided you can give me the reference you men-

tion, and security to the amount of \$500, I shall be happy to engage you as clerk.

Expecting to see you at my house to-morrow forenoon, at eleven o'clock,

I am, sir, yours, &c.

Mr.

From a young Tradesman, in reply to an unexpected demand for Money.

January 4th, 18—.

Sir—I am much surprised at the unexpected demand you have made upon me, especially as I am unconscious that any transaction on my part can have tended to impair your confidence in my integrity. I must observe, that it is, at present, wholly out of my power to comply, and in consequence of my arrangements, have little prospect of so doing until the usual limit of credit expires.

I am, sir, yours, &c.

Mr.

The Answer.

January 7th, 18—.

Sir—It is contrary to my disposition to treat an individual with harshness, with whom I am in the habit of transacting business, but certain intimations having reached me, of an unpleasant nature, I feel bound to persist in my former demand. However, for your satisfaction, I inform you, that I shall be at home this evening, when, if you think proper to call upon me, and satisfactorily answer certain particulars I will then name to you, you will experience every indulgence from me.

I remain, sir, your well-wisher.

Mr.

*From a Tenant to his Landlord, requesting time
for the Payment of his Rent.*

March 30th, 18—.

Sir—I am sorry that necessity compels me to request that you will favour me with one month beyond the usual time on which the payment of my rent is due, at which time I shall be able to settle the whole.

Trusting that my conduct during the period which I have been your tenant, will induce you to comply with this request,

I am, sir,

Your most obedient servant.

Mr.

The Answer.

April 2d, 18—.

Sir—Never having hitherto experienced any delay in your payments, it would be unconscionable in me not to accede to your request. Trusting you will not labour under any inconvenience at the time stated,

I remain, sir, yours truly.

Mr.

Another Answer.

April 2d, 18—.

Sir—I cannot help informing you, that it would be with much reluctance should I grant you one day beyond the usual time that I expect my rent, having had repeated applications of this nature from you, and for which I never discovered any satisfactory reason; I therefore expect you will be

prepared at the proper time, or the consequences may prove very disagreeable.

I am, sir, yours, &c.

Mr.

*From an insolvent Tradesman to his principal
Creditor.*

August 1st, 18—.

Sir—Circumstances have reduced me to the unavoidable necessity of stating to you that I am unable to meet the demands of my creditors. Bad debts have, chiefly, conduced to place me in a state of insolvency; you will, therefore, take the necessary steps, in conjunction with the rest of my creditors, to appoint assignees for the due distribution of the property of which I am at present possessed. Permit me, sir, to observe, that I shall be happy to meet the most rigorous investigation into my affairs, feeling confident that my books will disclose the utmost integrity and frugality on my part; and, ultimately, dispose my creditors to a favourable consideration for the future prospects of myself and numerous family.

I am, sir, yours respectfully.

Mr

The Answer.

August 3d, 18—.

Sir—Your letter duly reached me. I am sincerely sorry to learn the unpleasant situation in which you are involved, and am anxious to extricate you from it.

Upon making your statement known to your other creditors, they have agreed with me to allow you a period of four years for the payment of your

present debts, provided your books are as you state, (of which I have no doubt.) A person, properly authorized, will be sent immediately to examine them, and, on his return, every thing shall be carefully arranged, with a view to the promotion of your comfort and prosperity.

I am, dear sir, yours sincerely.

Mr.

*From a young Tradesman to a Wholesale Dealer,
requesting to postpone the Payment of a Bill.*

July 2d, 18—.

Sir—The promissory note you hold of mine will become due on Monday next; but I am sorry to state, that I shall not be able to make the necessary payment till ten days after: I trust, therefore, you will not present it till then, when it shall be punctually honoured. If required, I will give you security to the amount. In expectation of your answer,

I am, sir,

Your obedient servant.

Mr.

The Answer.

July 4th, 18—,

Sir—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, and shall comply with your request; but suffer me, as a friend, to advise you never again to give a note, unless you are certain of paying it when due, as, in some hands, it might be productive of unpleasant consequences. I require no other security than your honour.

I am, sir, your well-wisher.

Mr.

Another Answer.

July 4th, 18—.

Sir—Having paid the note away previous to the receipt of your letter, I do not possess the power of complying with your request. You must, therefore, prepare to take it up when due, or your character will suffer.

I am, sir, yours, &c.

Mr.

*From a Country Tenant, requesting time for the
Payment of his Rent,*

September 10th, 18—.

Sir—Owing to a general failure of my crops, and a great mortality amongst my cattle, I am compelled to solicit time for the payment of my rent; and as the winter is now approaching, I fear it will not be in my power to make any payment until the commencement of the Spring quarter. As you must be well aware that my inability to settle with you originated with the very bad season which we have experienced, and as you have uniformly found me punctual in the discharge of my rent, I have every reason to hope you will afford me the lenity I require.

I am, sir,

Your most obedient servant.

—, Esq.

The Answer.

September 14, 18—.

Dear Sir—I trust no person will tax me with being a severe landlord to those worthy men from whose industrious exertions I derive my income. Pray make yourself perfectly easy respecting the

rent due to me, as I am conscious that you will pay me as soon as you have the power.

If \$20 will serve you, I have given my agent directions to accommodate you with the loan of it for three years, at common interest. Trusting that you will surmount your present difficulties,

I am, sir, your sincere friend

Mr.

Another Answer.

September 14th, 18—

Sir—I am sorry that I cannot comply with your request—were I to do so in one instance, I should be obliged to do so in every case. I must, therefore, request that the money due to me for rent, be immediately paid into the hands of my agent.

I am, sir, yours, &c

Mr.

From a Tradesman in the Country to a Friend in Town, requesting a Favour.

September 5th, 18—.

Dear Sir—From the friendship that subsists between us, I am induced to request that you will be kind enough to purchase and forward me the articles, of which I have sent a list herewith, as also a check for the amount. Should it be in my power to return the obligation, by transacting any business for you in the country, I beg you will give me your directions, which shall be executed with pleasure.

I am, dear sir, yours faithfully

Mr

The Answer.

September 10th, 18—

Dear Sir—I have this morning sent off the various articles you desired me to forward. I can assure you that I purchased them at the cheapest market, and I doubt not that you will approve of their quality.

At present you cannot do any thing for me in the country, but in a month I shall have a little business, when I shall accept your obliging offer.

I am, dear sir, .

Yours most truly.

Mr.

Letter of Recommendation.

October 7th, 18—.

Sir—The bearer (Joseph Turner,) having requested from me a letter of recommendation, I beg leave to state that, through the period of six years in which he was in my service, he uniformly conducted himself in a manner that met my unqualified approbation, and have no doubt, should you engage him in your service, he will be found a great acquisition, and merit your esteem.

I am, sir, yours respectfully.

Mr.

Another.

October 7th, 18—.

Sir—I feel much satisfaction in recommending the bearer (John Scott,) to your notice, as a young man fully qualified to undertake the department of head clerk in your service, having had several years' experience of his ability and deportment,

and feel satisfied that the utmost confidence may be placed in his honesty and integrity.

I am, sir, yours, &c
Mr.

From a Young Man wishing to commence Business, to a rich Relative.

October 7th, 18—.

My dear and respected Sir—Having served my time to Mr. Shelby, the mercer, I am anxious to commence business upon my own account, but this will be utterly impracticable, unless you will condescend to afford me your assistance, which I am induced to hope you will, from the circumstance of your frequent approbation of my conduct while an apprentice, and the whole tenor of your conduct towards me.

You are aware, honoured sir, of my circumstances; consequently must know that I am not possessed of more than \$200 in the world, and that I have no friend able to assist me, with the exception of yourself.

An opportunity now offers for me to commence business, with every prospect of success. Mr. Jones, a late eminent grocer in this town, being deceased, the whole of his business, including the stock in trade, is to be disposed of by private contract, on Tuesday next, by his executors, of whom I have made proper inquiries, and find the sum required will amount to \$700.

Having made this statement, I leave the whole to your kind consideration, assuring you, sir, at the same time, that whatever may be your deter-

mination on the subject, it will not lessen either my love or respect.

I am, dear sir,

Yours affectionately.

—, Esq.

The Answer.

October 7th, 18—.

Dear George—I received your letter, and hasten to reply to it. I am happy that you are sensible of my affection for you, which nothing but your own bad conduct shall ever diminish.

I am of opinion that the prospect which now opens to your notice, ought not to be neglected, a circumstance so favourable rarely occurring; I have, therefore, resolved to give you a marked testimony of my affection towards you, by advancing you \$1000. This sum I freely present you with: I doubt not, when added to your own little fortune, it will procure you a comfortable support; and with careful industry it may, perhaps, in time, enable you to save (as I have done before you, without half your prospects,) a fortune.

Wishing you all possible success, and trusting that you will ever confide in me,

I am, dear George,

Your sincere friend.

Mr.

From a young Tradesman in Distress, to an old one in Prosperity, requesting his Advice.

October 7th, 18—.

Sir—A number of bad debts have reduced me to great distress, from which, I fear, I shall not be able to extricate myself.

This induces me to make an application for

your advice, confident, should any alternative remain to me, excepting that of bankruptcy, that your long experience can point it out, which, from the friendly interest you have avowed, I have no doubt but you will do.

I find it impossible to make the necessary returns to the wholesale dealers, (especially to yourself,) yet I am happy to say, my heart acquits me of having wasted one penny, and my books will prove that, when it can be received, there will be an ample sufficiency to liquidate every demand. 'This is a correct statement of my case; and I hope, dear sir, to hear from you immediately, assuring you, at the same time, whatever you can recommend shall be punctually attended to.

I am, dear sir,

Your obedient servant

Mr.

The Answer.

October 9th, 18—

Dear Sir—I am sorry to hear of your unpleasant situation, but I see no reason for despondency, especially as your debts can be more than liquidated by the sums due to you, and which doubtless will be paid in time.

Be therefore easy on this account, as being your principal creditor myself, I will arrange matters with your other creditors.

The only advice I can offer you is, in future to be more careful what credit you give, till your circumstances are sufficiently prosperous to enable you to lay out of large sums of money for a considerable time, when you may safely venture to extend your trade by giving long credit.

If you can conveniently sup with me this evening, after your shop is shut, I shall be happy to see you, as we can then enter more fully into the business.

I am, sir, yours, sincerely.

Mr.

From a Merchant to his Collector.

August 12th, 18—.

Sir—If you can conveniently call here to-morrow, with the account book, and all the information you have been able to collect, I shall be at home, and ready to attend to the business, by 10 o'clock.

If you cannot come to-morrow at that time, be so good as to send a line by the bearer.

Yours, &c.

Mr.

An offer of Correspondence.

Bristol, March 2d, 18—.

Sir—Understanding that the terms upon which you transact business with your country correspondents are very liberal, I am induced to propose opening an account with your house, which I have every reason to expect will turn out to our mutual advantage. I have been established in an extensive line in this city, for several years, and beg leave to refer you to Messrs. Gore and Cook, Wood street, Philadelphia, for every satisfaction upon the proposed engagement. I shall expect to be promptly supplied with such articles as I may require at the cheapest rate, and of the best quality; in return for which my remittances will be punctual.

Should this proposal meet with your concurrence, you will execute and forward the inclosed order as early as possible.

I am, sir,

Your obedient servant.

Mr.

The Answer.

Philadelphia, March 5th, 18—.

Sir—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your obliging letter, and to inform you that, being perfectly satisfied as to character, your order will be immediately completed.

You may rest assured that you shall receive the most honourable treatment, that your goods shall be of the first quality, and at the cheapest possible rate.

I am, sir,

Your obliged, humble servant.

Mr

From a Master dissatisfied with his Clerk.

June 3d, 18—.

Mr. ——. Notwithstanding my repeated remonstrances to you respecting the general impropriety of your conduct, I am sorry to perceive that they have not had an apparent effect.

For the last time, therefore, I solemnly warn you to reform the whole tenor of your behaviour, or I will certainly discharge you from my employment, (a punishment you most justly deserve.)

Mr.

The Answer.

June 4th, 18—.

Sir—Your serious letter has had its proper effect on my mind, for which I am truly grateful to you; and, sir, you may be assured that, in future, you shall have as much reason to praise, as you have hitherto had to blame, my conduct. With a grateful sense of your lenity,

I am, sir,

Yours, with the greatest respect.

Mr.

Letter of Thanks for an unexpected Favour.

January 4th, 18—.

Dear Sir—I have most sincerely to thank you for the kindness I have experienced from you, and more especially as it was wholly unsolicited on my part. I had a most ardent wish to unbosom my mind to some friend, on the circumstances which have borne heavily on me, both bodily and mentally, but was wholly without confidence as to the selection I should make, in so trying and delicate an affair, as I did not conceive myself justified in the expectation of having so generous and valuable a friend. At present, dear sir, I can only return you sentiments of acknowledgment for the very great obligation under which you have placed me; and to assure you, that I shall ever cherish a grateful remembrance of this kind and considerate attention.

I remain, dear sir,

Your sincere and much obliged friend.

—, Esq.

An Apology for not lending Money.

June 4th, 18—.

Sir—I am sorry that it is not convenient for me to accommodate you with the loan of \$20 at present, but shall be happy to serve you on any other occasion, if I possess the power.

I am, sir, yours, &c.

Mr.

From a Young Merchant to a Wholesale Dealer.

Sir—By the recommendation of a neighbour, who has expatiated much upon your character, I think proper, while commencing business, to make application to you, requesting you will send me a proper quantity of things for a young beginner, of the best quality, and on the most reasonable terms, which I think myself entitled to, as all our dealings, I intend, shall be for ready money.

I am, sir, yours, &c.

From the Wholesale Dealer in reply.

Sir—In answer to your favour of the 6th instant, I shall, by to-morrow's coach, send you a few articles, which I shall submit as a specimen of both the quality and cheapness of all my things. Should it be your pleasure to repeat your order, I shall endeavour to prove myself deserving of your favour.

am, with sincere wishes for your success,

Your obliged servant

Offer of Partnership.

Sir—My business extends far beyond my most sanguine expectations; and, indeed, so much so, that it is impossible for one person to superintend each department. I therefore wish to have a partner of integrity, and steady in his application to business, also capable of advancing — immediately, and giving security for a further sum of —, payable in —. Esteeming you as a person possessing all these requisites, I make you the first offer. Should you deem it worthy of your notice, favour me with an early call, and I will satisfy you as to the extent of the connexion, the profits, and other particulars important for you to know before such a bargain is finally settled.

I remain, sir, with esteem and friendship,

Your humble servant.

Caution against Partnership.

Sir, (or dear friend,)—I heard yesterday, with some alarm, from my long acquaintance with your family, (or friendship to you,) that you are about to embark your capital in partnership with Mr. —. I entreat you to be cautious how you act in this respect; and you had, to speak the truth, far better decline it. Mr. — is a man of talent and excellent address, and I do not believe would wilfully deceive or injure any one. But, alas! as a counterbalance to this, he is a gamester, and no man's money, any more than his own, can then be safe in such hands. I saw him last summer at the races; all that was very well, if for a pleasant recreation, or relaxation from the routine of busi-

ness, but there he was betting away with the spirit of a Lord Duke, and in a few subsequent days he was, to my knowledge, raising money on interest to pay his debts of honour. I can prove the truth of my assertions. I thought it my duty to impart them to you, leaving you to act as you think proper, requesting your secrecy as to this communication. I remain, sir, your most sincere friend and true well-wisher, which I am always ready to prove in deeds as well as words.

Yours, &c.

Soliciting Employment.

Sir, (or gentlemen,)—Being informed you are in want of a respectable trusty person to fill the situation of —, I beg leave to offer my services, believing myself fully competent of fulfilling the duties required. I can give the most satisfactory and unexceptionable reference (and security if required). An early answer will oblige me. And if you think I should suit, I shall be happy to wait on you when you should please to appoint.

I remain, sir,

Your obedient servant.

Request of Payment.

Sir—I am sorry that your want of punctuality should force me to write to you, requesting immediate payment, my circumstances admitting no further delay; and three months have elapsed beyond the usual time of allowed credit, and not even a line from you. This is a bad way of conducting business, and I give you notice I shall, if the mo

ney is not sent, pursue legal means for its recovery without further notice.

I remain, &c

The Answer.

Sir—I own you had apparent reason to feel displeased with me, and doubt my integrity. But I am ready to submit my accounts to your inspection, and you will find I have not been able to collect my accounts in; and I put off sending to you from day to day in the hope of some families coming to town, to whom I have given credit. I pledge my word to settle with you in fourteen days; and if you will send me the following articles, I will pay for them on delivery. In the hope of your granting this delay, and on my promise of future punctuality,

I remain,

Your humble and obliged servant.

From an Apprentice to his Father.

Honoured Sir—As I know the great satisfaction it will yield to my dear honoured father, to hear how much I approve of the business I am about learning, I embrace the first opportunity of writing. My master is an honest, pious, and most worthy character; the family seem to follow his example, by preserving the greatest order and regularity; he both encourages and seems pleased with my performance; in short, I never was so happy—and if my dear father will let me hear from him constantly, it will complete the felicity of his

Dutiful Son.

From the Father in answer.

Dear Frank—Your approbation both of your master and business, has given me great satisfaction; and I think it my duty to admonish you to industry and sobriety, as these qualifications are most essential to a man of business: be very careful whose company you keep, for “Evil communications corrupt good manners;” be also attentive to the economy of your domestic affairs, and do not waste the money that I allow you. These hints, I hope, will be of service; and whenever you want advice, do not fail in writing to

Your affectionate Father.

*From a Tradesman in Distressed Circumstances,
desiring a Letter of License.*

It is now above ten years since I first had dealings with you, and during that time you know that my payments were regular; but, at present, am sorry that my affairs are so perplexed, that it is not in my power to comply with the just demands of my creditors, nor even to pay them any thing until my affairs are settled; for that reason, sir, I have sent to you, desiring a letter of license for only twelve months, in which time I hope to be able to settle my affairs to their satisfaction; but if they will not comply with this, I am completely ruined. Your answer is very impatiently expected by

Your obedient humble servant.

The Answer.

Sir—Yours I received, and am extremely sorry to hear that your circumstances are so distressed. In order to comply with your request, I called a meeting of the creditors, and I doubt not but they will agree to a proposal so fair and reasonable, of which I shall give you notice.

I am, sir,

Your real friend.

To an Acquaintance, to borrow a Sum of Money.

Dear Sir—If you have fifty dollars, which you can, without any inconvenience, spare for about six months, I shall be greatly obliged to you to lend them to me for so long.

I have been greatly disappointed and pressed for money; at the same time, it is an unlucky, but not an uncommon circumstance. You will believe me, that I would not ask this of you, if I were not certain to give it to you back; but if it be the least inconvenience to spare the money at all, or to be so long without it, pray refuse me.

I am, dear sir,

Yours with the greatest sincerity

To an intimate Acquaintance, to borrow Money.

Pray favour me, Charles, with twenty dollars, by the bearer, who is my servant. I have immediate occasion, but will repay it again whenever you please to make a demand. This letter will answer all the purpose of a note; from

Your obliged humble servant.

*To an Acquaintance, to borrow a Sum of Money
for a short time.*

Dear Sir—If it be quite convenient and agreeable to you, I'll beg the favour of you to lend me fifty dollars for the space of three months precisely: any security that you can require, and I can give, you may freely ask. A less time would not suit me; a longer, you may depend on it, I shall not desire. Your answer will oblige,

Sir, your very humble servant.

The Answer.

Dear Sir—Any thing in my power is at all times very much at your service; the sum you mention I have now by me, and can very conveniently spare it for the time you fix, and you are most heartily welcome to it. Any hour that you shall appoint to-morrow I'll be ready; and am, with the greatest sincerity,

Your affectionate friend,

*From a Servant in the City, to his Master in the
Country.*

Sir—As I find your stay in the country longer than you expected, I thought it my duty to acquaint you that we are all well at home; and to assure you that your business shall be carried on with the same care and fidelity as if you were personally present. We all wish for your return as soon as your affairs will permit: and it is with pleasure that I take this opportunity of subscribing myself,

Sir, your most obedient and faithful servan

From a Country Shopkeeper, to his Friend in New York, desiring him to send him some Goods.

Sir—That friendship which we contracted in our youth is not yet, I hope, abated, although Providence has placed us many miles distant from each other. I have heard of your success in New York, and it is with pleasure I can assure you that I am comfortably settled here. But you know that our returns are slow, and profits small, and therefore, however willing, I am not in circumstances sufficient to defray the expenses of a journey to town, in order to purchase goods at the best hand, which will be attended with some loss, because a considerable expense. Relying, therefore, on your former friendship, I have presumed to solicit your assistance, to purchase, from time to time, what goods I may happen to want from the city, for which an order shall be remitted on delivery. At present I have only sent for a few articles, as you will see by the inclosed. I doubt not of your getting them as good and as cheap as possible; and if there is any thing I can do to serve you in this part of the country, you may depend on its being executed with the utmost fidelity and dispatch.

I am, sir,

Your sincere friend.

The Answer.

Sir—Yours I received, and am extremely glad to hear of your being so comfortably settled. There is a pleasure in looking back to those youthful days we spent together in harmless amusement, and it gives me great pleasure to think that I have

it in my power to be any way of service to my friend. The goods you ordered are sent in the Marlborough wagon, directed to you. They are good, and as cheap as any in the city, and I hope you will be a considerable gainer. With respect to your kind proffer of service, I heartily thank you, and shall, as occasion requires, trouble you with something of that nature. In the mean time be sure to command me in every thing wherein I can serve you, as it will give the greatest pleasure to

Your sincere friend.

From a Country Shopkeeper, to a Dealer in Philadelphia, complaining of the Badness of his Goods.

Sir—When I first began to correspond with you, it was my fixed resolution to act with integrity and honour, expecting the same in return. I must, indeed, confess, that the goods you sent me for some time were as good as any I could purchase from another, and so far I had not any reason to complain. But now the case is quite different. The two last parcels you sent me are so bad, that I dare not offer them to my customers.—From what, sir, does this proceed? Have I ever been deficient in my payments? No, you dare not accuse me of any thing of that nature. However, I am obliged to tell you, that unless you send me others in their room, I must either withdraw my correspondence, or shut my shop. Your immediate answer will oblige,

Yours, &c

The Answer.

Sir—I received yours, and am extremely sorry to hear the goods sent you were so bad. I know

I had some such in my warehouse, but was determined to sell them at a low rate, without ever thinking of their being sent to any of my customers, particularly so valuable a correspondent as yourself. By some mistake my servants have inadvertently sent them, for which I am extremely sorry; but in order to make you amends, I send by this day's wagon those which I had originally intended for you, at my own expense. I hope you will excuse this, and be assured you shall never be served in such a manner for the future.

I am, sir,

Your humble servant.

*From a Tradesman in Reply to a Demand from
one of his Principal Creditors.*

Sir—The difficulty I have experienced in obtaining settlements of debts which have been owing to me for a length of time, the bad state in which business has been in, and the long credit I am under the necessity of giving, can alone plead my excuse for not replying earlier to your favour. Joined to these, my unwillingness to send you any communication, unless accompanied by a remittance; and which, I find, after the most strenuous exertions on my part, that I am unable to accomplish, will, I trust, cause you to hold me excused of any intentional neglect. I can assure you, nothing would give me greater pleasure than to be able to send you the full amount of the demand you have made on me, as I am quite satisfied you would not make an application of the sort unless you were actually distressed for the money.—I am well aware that I have exceeded the accustomed credit; but as this is the first time I have failed in

my promise with regard to money matters, I sincerely trust you will allow me a little longer time, (say a month from this date) and I will, *without fail*, send you the sum required.—Waiting anxiously your reply,

I am, sir,

Your faithful servant

In Reply, and favourable.

Sir—Yours, of the 26th instant, I hasten to reply to.—Well convinced as I am of your integrity, I should feel ill at ease with myself, if I refused the extended time you require. I am too well acquainted with the fluctuations of business, and the difficulty tradesmen have of obtaining settlements of their accounts, to press harshly upon them, more especially as I myself have at times need of lenity on the score of money matters. I shall, therefore, not write again until I hear from you, which I shall expect to do in a month or five weeks *at farthest* from this date.

Yours very faithfully.

In Reply, unfavourable.

Sir—I have just received yours of the 26th inst., and cannot but observe in reply thereto, that I feel exceedingly disappointed at the statement you have made. I have depended on receiving the sum I named, more especially as the time agreed upon for payment has passed, and I must say that the inconvenient situation I shall be placed in from your non-compliance with my request, cannot be counterbalanced by any remittance you may make hereafter. I have therefore again to request that you will let me have \$—, at the least, this *day week*, otherwise I shall take legal measures for the

recovery of the whole sum due to me. I am well aware that business is far from being brisk, but young tradesmen ought to be more careful of giving long credit, and more especially when their capital, like your own, is but small.

I am, sir,

Your obedient servant.

From the Tradesman in Answer.

Sir—The advice, which your letter of yesterday contains, is so *pithy*, so *laconic*, and so *much to the purpose*, that it cannot fail to have its due weight with myself. But after an acquaintance of — years, during which period some hundreds of dollars have been paid by me to you, and with the utmost regularity, I little expected the *lecturing* you have been pleased to favour me with; but you may depend on it, sir, I shall never again place it in your power to *school me* as to the mode in which I should conduct my business. I am only sorry that I have laid you under the necessity of refusing so trifling a favour. I beg, therefore to inform you that, through the kindness of a friend, I shall be enabled, on this day week, not only to satisfy the demand you make, but also, at the same time, to settle the balance which will then be due to you. If, therefore, you will either send a receipt, or call yourself, on that day, the account shall be closed, and all correspondence between us on that, or any other subject, ended.

I am, sir, yours, &c.

To a Friend, soliciting a favour for a Son.

Dear Friend—My family is so numerous, and the returns in trade latterly falling off, that it is my wish to place my elder sister's children in a

way of providing for themselves ; I shall then have the pleasure of seeing them in a proper path, and lessen my domestic expenses, two most essential points to me and my wife, who is, I am sorry to observe, in a very weak state of health. Mary is gone to wait on a lady ; Jane is on trial at a dress-maker's ; and William, now turned fourteen, does not like my trade, but has a great fancy to yours. Nor is there a man under the sun to whom I would sooner bind him apprentice ; and as when I last saw you, you spoke of taking one, (or an additional one) I have ventured to make this request. I can find him in clothes, but the premium, I fear, will be too small to meet your wishes. You will have the goodness, however, to let me know your determination as soon as convenient, and it will materially oblige

Your sincere friend and well-wisher.

Requesting a Loan of Money.

If you, my friend, can, without any inconvenience to yourself, lend me the sum of —, for six weeks, for which I will give my note, you will confer on me a lasting obligation. My customers have lately been backward in payment, though I look on all my book debts as being in fair hands. But you know most of my affairs with Gosling & Co. and I wish to keep up my credit with them, and if I settle the present demand, they will immediately increase my stock. An answer by the bearer will greatly oblige,

Yours truly.

The Answer.

Dear Sir—I cannot without some inconvenience advance you the money you require. Yet, anxious

to serve you, and trusting you will be punctual to the given time, you may therefore call on me for that sum this evening, after six; till then I am engaged. If you should meet S——, do not mention the circumstance to him, as yesterday, from motives of prudence, I refused to cash a bill for him, though of much less amount than that you have occasion for.

Yours, in sincere friendship and confidence.

The Denial.

Dear Sir—I regret I cannot acquiesce with the request contained in your note, for I really am out of cash, through the late repairs and alterations of my house, and other causes. I hope my non-compliance will not seriously disappoint you, as you must have other friends whose ability to serve you keeps pace with their inclinations; if not, as you seem to attach great dependence in the responsibility of your book debts, assign them over to Messrs. Gosling & Co. who will no doubt send you in goods as you may require, and arrange as to future payments from you to their firm.

Yours, &c.

The Tradesman's Reply.

Sir—I do not thank you for your advice, my affairs not being in that desperate condition as to require arrangements with my creditors; but I grieve for the profanation of the sacred name friendship. Had you not repeatedly offered assistance when I did not require it, I should not have made the request. You also forget the services I rendered you when you were at ——. But hold, it is mean of me to repeat an obligation; nor would I have done so had not your ingratitude

stung me; and I am well aware of your power to befriend me in this temporary embarrassment, but your littleness of mind prevented you. Yes, sir, I have met a friend, not another friend, for you are unworthy the appellation. Thank Heaven, every man is not a butterfly only to bask in the sunshine of prosperity. You appear to be making rapid strides towards prosperity, and with the wish it may continue,

I remain, &c.

*From a Gentleman, requesting the Character of a
Servant.*

Sir—I understand from John —, that he had been (such a time) in your service as —, and that he is capable of the situation. If his character suits my expectations, and he says he has no doubt of your recommendation being in his favour (his only motive), the cause of his dismissal being (or sentences to the purpose required), I shall certainly engage him, as I like his appearance and civil deportment. Your answer by the return of the bearer will much oblige,

Sir, your humble servant.

The Answer.

Sir—It is with pleasure I inform you that my late servant John, of whose character you do me the honour to inquire, is a worthy, honest, and sober young man, and perfectly qualified for that line of domestic servitude he has chosen; he is clean in person, and of excellent temper. The reason he states as to leaving my establishment, and time of

remaining in it, are both correct; and with an earnest wish he may suit you in every respect,

I have, sir, the honour to be, &c.

A different Reply.

Sir—I am sorry to say I cannot recommend — as I could wish; he is a good servant when sober, but frequent inebriations obliged me to part with him after repeated admonitions on my part, and vain promises of amendment on his. Allow me at the same time to say, I have nothing to allege against his honesty; and as he has suffered much by being out of place, he may possibly have become sensible of his error, and make you a better servant than he has done me. I have, sir, the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant, &c.

From a Merchant at Leghorn to his Brother in New York, desiring him to sell some Goods and purchase others.

Sir—According to the agreement settled between us when I left the United States, I have sent, by the *Charming Sally*, Captain J., twelve bales of raw silk, marked A. Z., desiring you to dispose of them to the best advantage. They are all warranted good, as I examined each parcel separately before they were sent on board. You will receive an inclosed order for various articles of American manufactures, to be sent by the first ship sailing for this port. Let them be as good and cheap as possibly you can procure, as they are much wanted at present.

I am, sir,

Your humble servant.

The Answer.

Sir—Yours I received, and the bales marked A. Z., were delivered at the custom-house. I immediately advertised them for sale at Garraway's, in twelve different lots, but they were all purchased by an eminent manufacturer for nine hundred dollars, which I have lodged in the bank in your name. I have likewise shipped on board the Dispatch, Captain W——, the different articles which you ordered; there are twenty bales, marked B. M. I am told they are the best that can be had, and doubt not of their giving satisfaction.

I am, sir,

Your humble servant.

To a Correspondent, requesting the Payment of a Sum of Money.

Sir—Although the balance of the account between us has been long standing in my favour, yet I would not have applied to you at present, had not a very unexpected demand been made upon me for a large sum, which, without your assistance, is not in my power to answer. When I see you, I will inform you of the nature of this demand, and the necessity of my discharging it. I hope you will excuse me this freedom, which nothing but a regard to my credit and family could oblige me to take. If it does not suit you to remit the whole, part will be thankfully received by

Your humble servant.

The Answer.

Sir—I have just received yours, and am sorry to hear of your affliction. That the account be

tween us was not sooner settled, was owing to the failure of two principal debtors. I have just received a remittance from Norwich, and am pleased it is in my power to answer the whole of your demand. The balance between us is two hundred and fifty dollars, for which I have inclosed an order on Mr. C——, the banker. I hope you will surmount this and every other difficulty, and am

Your sincere well-wisher.

Transmitting an Account Sales.

New York, 2d June, 18—.

Sir—We have now the pleasure to hand you an account sales of your ten bales of cotton, per the Columbus; net proceeds \$913 25, due 13th October, at your credit, which we hope you will find correct.

The drafts you intend to pass on us will meet with due honour.

We are, sir,

Yours, very respectfully.

Rendering an Account Current.

New York, 31st Dec. 18—.

Sir—Annexed you have a copy of your account current for last six months, which we hope you will find correct; balance in your favour \$103 03, which is placed to your credit in new account.

We remain, sir,

Your most obedient servants.

Advice of a Bill returned under Protest.

New York, 13th June, 18—.

Sir—Your draft on S——, T—— & Co. for \$250, due the 10th, is this day returned me, under protest for non-payment, and amounts, with expenses, to \$254 08, against which I will thank you for a remittance by return of post,

And am, sir,

Yours respectfully.

Remitting for the foregoing Bill.

Philadelphia, 15th June, 18—.

Sir—I am this moment favoured with yours of the 13th, informing me that my draft on S——, T—— & Co., due the 10th, has been returned for non-payment.

I rest satisfied that every exertion to procure payment has been used, although without success.

Inclosed you have H—— and C——, at 50 days, for \$256 02, which covers the amount with interest and expenses.

I remain, sir,

Yours respectfully.

An Answer to a Letter respecting a Failure.

New York, 17th June, 18—.

Dear Sir—I reply to yours of the 14th:—I have to inform you that S——, T—— & Co.'s business is winding up; how their affairs will turn out, will very soon be made public.

So soon as their composition is ascertained, you may expect to be duly informed, by,

Dear sir,

Yours, very sincerely.

Advising the Amount of the Bankrupt's Composition.

Philadelphia, 12th Aug., 18—.

Dear Sir—After a minute investigation of the affairs of S——, T—— & Co., I am sorry to inform you that more than 25 per cent. will not be obtained, and it is even doubtful when this small composition will be realized.

I regret that you are so deeply concerned in this failure. Any service that I can render, you may freely command,

And I remain, dear sir,

Yours very truly.

From an Insolvent Debtor to his Principal Creditor, desiring the Acceptance of a Composition.

Sir—When I first entered into business, I little thought that ever I should be under the necessity of writing to you on such a subject as this; but experience has taught me, that it is much better to acknowledge the state of my affairs to my creditors, than put them to the expense of taking out a commission of bankruptcy. To you, sir, therefore, as the person to whom I am principally indebted, do I address myself on this melancholy occasion, and must acknowledge, that my affairs are much deranged. I have been these ten years past endeavouring to acquire something for myself, but

in vain; for the variety of different articles which I have been obliged to sell on credit, and the losses sustained thereby, always kept me in low circumstances; and often, when I paid you money, I had none left for the support of my family. If you will be pleased to employ any prudent person to examine my books, I doubt not but you will be convinced, that the whole of my conduct has been consistent with the rules of the strictest honesty; and, if it shall appear so to you, I must beg you will be pleased to call a meeting of the creditors, and lay it before them. I have not spent any more than was really and absolutely necessary for the support of my family, and every thing remaining shall be delivered up. When all this is done, I hope you will accept it, as it is not in my power to do more, and consider me as one whose misfortunes call for pity instead of resentment.

I am, sir,

Your humble servant.

The Answer.

Sir—With the greatest concern I have perused your affecting letter; and should consider myself as very cruel indeed, if I refused to comply with a request so reasonable as that made by you. I have employed a worthy person, a friend of mine, to examine your books, the result of which shall be immediately laid before the other creditors, and if it is as you represent, you need not be afraid of any harsh usage. I always considered you as one of the greatest integrity, and am determined to lay down a plan for your future support. In the mean time I have sent a trifle to defray your expenses till the affairs are settled, and am

Your sincere well-wisher.

From a Country Tenant, on the same occasion.

Honoured Sir—I am extremely sorry that, through a variety of unforeseen accidents, I am obliged to write to you on such a subject as this. The season last year was bad, but I was enabled to pay you. This has turned out much worse, and it being so long before we could get the corn home, it is not yet fit to be sold. I only beg your indulgence about two months longer, when I hope to pay you faithfully.

I am, your humble servant.

The Answer.

Sir—From the whole of my conduct, ever since you first became my tenant, I hope that you cannot have reason to allege any thing against me. I never treated you with rigour, as I always considered you an industrious, honest man. Make yourself perfectly easy concerning the payment of your rent, till I come into the country in the summer, and, if things are as you represent them, and I doubt not but they are, you may be assured of every reasonable indulgence.

I am, yours, &c.

From a Tenant to a Landlord, excusing delay of Payment.

Sir—I have been your tenant above ten years in the house where I now live, and you know that I have never failed to pay my rent quarterly when due. At present I am extremely sorry to inform you that, from a variety of losses and disappoint-

ments, I am under the necessity of begging that you will indulge me one quarter longer. By that time I hope to have it in my power to answer your demand, and the favour shall be gratefully acknowledged, by

Your obedient humble servant.

The Answer.

Sir—It was never my design to oppress you. I have had long trial of your honesty, and therefore you may rest perfectly satisfied concerning your present request. No demand shall be made by me upon you for rent, until it suits you to pay it: for I am well convinced you will not keep it from me any longer.

I am, &c.

From a Merchant's Clerk in Boston, to his Master in the Country.

Sir—Our not hearing from you these three weeks has made us very uneasy, but still we hope you are well. The business has been carried on in the same manner in which you left it; but yesterday an order came from New York, for goods to the amount of five thousand dollars and upwards. You know the credit of the house there that order these goods, and therefore I would not do any thing till I heard from you. If you please to write by the next post, I shall abide by your directions, and every thing shall be conducted by your order. We would not wish you to return before your health is fully re-established, although we desire to see you every day. All the family are well.

I am,

Your obedient faithful servant.

*From a Tradesman to a Wholesale Dealer, to delay
Payment of a Sum of Money.*

Sir—My note to you will be payable in ten days, and I am sorry to inform you that, although I have considerable sums in good hands, yet none of them are due these three weeks, which is the most time I require. It is a favour I never asked of any one till this moment, and I hope for the future not to have any occasion to repeat it. I am really distressed for your answer; but as a proof of my sincerity, have sent inclosed three notes subscribed by persons well known to yourself, and although they exceed my debt, yet I have no objection to your keeping them as security till due. Let me beg to hear from you as soon as this comes to hand, which will much oblige,

Your humble servant.

The Answer.

Sir—your letter arrived the day after it was written, which was extremely fortunate for you, as I was to have paid your note away yesterday, and I could not have had an opportunity of recalling it in time to have served you. Indeed, it was imprudent not to communicate the news to me sooner, as your credit might have been greatly affected by such an unnecessary delay. However, I impute it to your unwillingness to reveal the state of your affairs, and shall keep the note in my hands till your own becomes due, and for that purpose have returned the others, not doubting but you will send me the money at the time promised, which will greatly oblige,

Your sincere well-wisher

*From a Young Man in the Country, to a Merchant
in New York, offering Correspondence.*

Sir—My apprenticeship with Mr. W——— being expired (during which time I had proofs of your integrity, in your dealings with my worthy master), my parents have given me \$200 to begin the world, which you know is not sufficient to carry on trade to any advantage; that I may be able to sell my goods as cheap as possible, I would choose to have them from the first hand, and likewise the usual time of credit. If it is agreeable to you, I hereby offer you my correspondence, not doubting but you will use me as well as you did Mr. W———, and you may depend on my punctuality with respect to payments.

My late master has no objection to my setting up, as it will not be in the least prejudicial to his business. I shall depend on you sending me the following order as soon, and as cheap, as possible.

I am, sir,

Your humble servant

The Merchant's Answer.

Sir—Yours I received, and am extremely glad to hear that your parents have enabled you to open a shop for yourself. Your behaviour to your late master was such, that it cannot fail of procuring you many customers. I have sent the goods by the wagon, in ten parcels, marked M. I.; and doubt not but you will be punctual in your returns, which will enable me to serve you as low as possible, and with the best goods which I can procure. I most heartily wish you success in business; and you must well know, that honesty and assiduity are the most likely means to insure it.

I am, your obliged servant

LETTERS

ON

LOVE, COURTSHIP, AND MARRIAGE.

To a Lady.

August 1st, 18—.

My dearest Harriet—Ever since the fatal or auspicious evening that I was introduced to your endearing presence, my heart has been riveted to the lovely image of her, who must become the arbitress of my future happiness or misery; that the latter will be the case, will not endure a moment's reflection, for independent of my own feelings, it would be cruel to suppose that a bosom formed of virtues most sensitive and tender, could ever consign a heart touched with those very virtues to become the victim of aspiring delusion. No, my dear Harriet, you will never overwhelm me with such a fatal reply, and thus annihilate all those endearing prospects of future felicity, which I have so ardently cherished; as an alleviation, then to those fond feelings, which are at present severely agitated by suspense, permit me, my dear girl, to address your respected parents, for a formal recognition of my visits and attentions to you: such a concession from my Harriet, will relieve me from a state of inexpressible anxiety, and in part secure to me a glowing tranquillity, which is only in the power of you, my love, to bestow. Anxiously expecting a favourable reply,

I am, dearest Harriet, yours sincerely.

The Answer.

August 3d, 18—.

Sir—In answer to your flattering letter, I must beg leave to remind you, that in giving you the permission of addressing my beloved parents upon the subject of your attachment to me, such permission must be understood as implying a reciprocity of feeling; which indeed, in a point involving all the consequences of my future happiness, is no ordinary speculation; however, that I may not incur the charge of cruelty from one whom, I must acknowledge, I at present value with no ordinary esteem, I shall, with the permission of my parents, feel much pleasure in a continuation of your society; but with regard to the success of your present enterprise, time and circumstances alone must determine. Begging you to receive my best acknowledgments for the honour conferred,

I remain, sir, with sincere regard,

Your affectionate friend.

The Lady's Answer, rejecting.

August 4th, 18—.

Sir—In reply to the letter you have done me the honour of writing, I must beg permission to decline your addresses in the most decided manner; at the same time I return you my grateful thanks for having so highly distinguished me, and assure you that I shall ever bear a proper remembrance of it.

Trusting you will suffer your natural good sense to conquer a passion which can never meet a due return from me,

I remain, sir,

Your obliged and obedient servant.

The Gentleman to the Lady's Father, (supposing her Letter to be favourable.)

August 7th, 18—.

Dear Sir—Having made an application to your beloved daughter for her hand, she has given her consent, provided you and her mother will condescend to sanction it. This, I flatter myself, you will do, my circumstances, family, and character, being well known to you both. I shall only add, that my happiness or misery through life depends upon your reply; and that I will make any settlement upon your dear daughter which you may judge necessary. My happiness will be founded on the promoting of hers, with the possession of your esteem and approbation.—Entreating of you to give a favourable reply, I have the honour, my dear sir, to subscribe myself,

Your faithful and obliged humble servant.

The Father's Answer.

August 9th, 18—.

My dear Sir—In reply to the letter you did me the honour of writing, I must remark, that neither my wife nor myself have ever interfered with the wishes of our excellent daughter; her whole conduct being governed with such prudence and propriety, that no room was left for advice.

Your affection being mutual, we have only to observe, that we shall be highly gratified in giving our girl to you, and we doubt not but that you will enjoy as much happiness in the married state as this life will admit of. In respect to ourselves, you may be assured that you possess our respect and affection; were this not the case, we should not so readily resign to your protection our greatest treasure.

My good wife entirely coincides with what I have said; we shall therefore expect to see you on — next, when every thing shall be arranged for your union.

I am, dear sir,

Yours, very affectionately

— —
*From the Gentleman to the Lady, inclosing her
Father's Reply.*

August 11th, 18—.

My dear Harriet—I cannot adequately express the happiness I feel, in finding that my letter to your respected parents has been crowned with success, and I flatter myself, notwithstanding your temporizing with my feelings, in thus reserving your avowal of a reciprocal attachment, that you, my dear girl, will not be unsusceptible to its value, but condescend to acknowledge an equal happiness with myself at its contents. In token of the confidence with which your dear letter has inspired me, I beg leave to present you with a trifle, the acceptance of which will be highly flattering to him whose image it portrays; and permit me the fond pleasure of indulging a belief that my lovely Harriet will esteem the trifle, in affectionate remembrance of the original.

In obedience to your father's command, I shall wait upon him at the appointed time; till then, my beloved Harriet, adieu.

Ever your devoted admirer.

— — —
From a Labouring man to his Intended Wife.

September 1st, 18—.

Dear Nancy—When I left the country for my place in Boston, it was a heart-breaking job to part from you; however, poor people must en-

deavour to procure an honest subsistence, and whatever our troubles may be, we ought to bow with submission to the will of God, who alone knows what is the most proper for us. It is this confidence which supports me under the affliction of my absence from you.

I am living with a most excellent family, and experience every attention it is in their power to show me. My master has been good enough to promise me a month's leave, that I may be able to see my friends in the country. I need not say how swiftly I shall fly to embrace you—yes, my dearest, we will then be married, and enjoy at least some portion of our life. Nor need we be under any apprehensions, as I have saved a sufficiency of money to take a small house in Boston, and to establish you in business; where, with the blessing of the Almighty, we shall no doubt thrive.

Pray present my best respects to all your family, whom I love as I do my own. And, dear Nancy, be sure that you answer this letter, and also that you write to me every opportunity.

I am, dear Nancy,

Your devoted lover.

Nancy's Answer.

September 3d, 18—.

Dear Robert—I lose no time in replying to your kind letter. You must know how happy I am to hear from you, how anxious I always am to do as you wish me.

I rejoice at what you mention, respecting your making us a visit. I shall be perfectly ready to comply with your request; and I fervently pray that neither of us may ever have cause to repent

that hour which unites us. I showed your letter to my kind parents; they were equally gratified with myself, and this morning my dear father requested me to inclose a letter from him, but he would not let me peruse it. Indeed, I was sadly anxious to know what it was all about.

Dear Robert, how I long for that happy hour to arrive, when we shall meet to part no more till death! I have no more doubt than yourself, that God will prosper us, provided we merit his protection.

Farewell, dear Robert, may heaven watch over your health, and speedily conduct you to the arms of

Your faithful, your affectionate.

The Father's Letter, inclosed in the foregoing.

September 5th, 18—.

My worthy Friend—Your letter to Nancy gave my wife and myself sincere pleasure. We rejoice to hear of your intended visit, and the design of it; believe me, my son, for by that name I must call you, when I resign my dear girl to you before the altar of God, my happiness will be perfect, being convinced from the whole of your conduct, that I shall insure hers. Neither shall she come portionless to your arms, it having been my constant aim to make a purse for this occasion, which, added to your own savings, I have no doubt will assist you in life. However, of this enough: hasten to us, a hearty welcome awaits you from your elderly friend, and the tenderest affection from our girl. Even yet, old as I am, I implore of Providence to wind up the many undeserved mercies I have experienced, by prolonging my existence to

behold your first-born, then I will willingly close my aged eyes in peace.

Farewell,

My prayers are with you.

From a Labouring Man to his Intended Wife in the Country.

September 9th, 18--.

My Dear Sarah—Since my arrival in Boston I have been at times very unhappy, in being deprived of the pleasure of your society, and frequently pace over in my mind the agreeable walks we have taken on your father's farm: believe me, my dear girl, I would never have consented to so long a separation, had it not been for the prospect of being enabled of affording you greater comforts in our union, than I otherwise could have done; in this I have not been altogether deceived, for should Providence spare us for each other, I cherish the hope of seeing you next summer, when I propose, my dear Sarah, to celebrate our union; and I am sure, it will give you as much pleasure as it does myself, to inform you that I have realized sufficient to start in a small way of business, or engage with a small farm; but I think, my dear girl, as the time draws nigh when I hope to see you, my anxiety seems to increase; therefore write to me immediately, as the possession and perusal of a letter from you, will afford me a pleasurable relief in my unoccupied moments.

I have sent you a few trilles, which I hope you will value for my sake, and with my best wishes and respects for your dear parents,

I remain, dearest Sarah,

Your faithful and affectionate

The Answer.

September 11th, 18—.

My Dearest Joseph—Your kind and affectionate letter gave us much pleasure, especially as you state that it is your intention to come down next summer, and purpose settling here: I can assure you, we shall all be upon the tiptoe of expectation for your arrival, and father says it will be the happiest day for him to give me away to my dearest Joseph; not to get rid of me, believe me, for he is indeed a kind father, and loves me dearly; but what delights him and my dear mother the most, is, that you purpose settling in the country, as in that case we shall not be deprived of seeing each other, and they will be partakers of our joys and pleasures, which could not be, had you made up your mind to settle in Boston.

I have received your pretty little present, and will repay you for your kind remembrance of me, with a token more acceptable than money, when I see you: until then, my dearest Joseph,

I remain, yours affectionately.

From a Gentleman to a Lady.

May 5th, 18—.

Madam—I have frequently endeavoured to address you personally on the subject of this letter, but I invariably found my resolution to fail, which circumstance I attribute to the dread of an unfavourable answer, as my happiness through life depends upon the possession of your heart.

Be assured, madam, that in making the proposal I now do, that it is the result of mature deliberation, and that your hand would be valuable only accom-

panied by your heart. In respect to fortune, you are aware that I have sufficient to insure every comfort of life, and am also happy to say my character is such, that it will bear the strictest investigation, and my family respectable. Should you, therefore, venture to intrust yourself to my protection, every hour of my life shall be devoted to the promotion of your happiness, and a faithful discharge of the duties of a good and affectionate husband.

I shall wait your reply to this letter with the greatest anxiety, and am, madam,

Your devoted lover.

The Lady's Answer.

May 7th, 18—.

Sir—The receipt of your letter occasioned me some surprise, especially as it treated on a subject to which I had not yet devoted my thoughts; neither did I imagine, from the general tenor of your conduct towards me, that you entertained the sentiment you have thus avowed.

With regard to your circumstances and your family, I have no doubt but that your statements are correct; and I shall now make a reply to the proposal with which you have distinguished me, with that candour due to an honourable man on such an occasion. I confess that your appearance and behaviour were always agreeable to me, and deserving of my respect; but, sir, I am under the control of a guardian, upon whose kindness and judgment I must implicitly rely, and without his approbation I take no step of importance. Previously to my giving a decisive reply, I also wish to know the sentiments of your mother; for, he

assured, sir, I will never become a member of any family, unless it be agreeable to its elder branches.

Your answer to the above will, in a great measure, decide my determination.

I am, sir,

Your obedient servant.

The Gentleman's Reply.

May 8th, 18—.

Madam—My warmest acknowledgments are due in return for your kind letter. I am but too happy that it remains in my power to give you perfect satisfaction. My dear mother not only approves of my attachment to you, but her happiness will be increased at beholding me the husband of a young lady possessing so many excellent qualities. To convince you of this, she desired me to send you the inclosed letter from her. I have now, my dear madam, to solicit your permission to wait upon you, when, I trust, I shall be enabled to enter into every necessary explanation, and to make such arrangements as may prove agreeable.

I am, dear madam,

Your faithful and affectionate lover.

Letter from the Gentleman's Mother.

May 8th, 18—

My dear Young Lady—You may probably imagine, while perusing this letter, that the partial affection of a mother induces me to praise too highly a beloved son; but I can assure you, my dear Miss, that no inducement will ever prevail upon me to violate the sacred dictates of truth.

My son has made me acquainted with his love for you, avowing that he could never be happy

with another. This event has conferred no small portion of genuine happiness upon me; first, because it is my most anxious wish to see him settled in life as the master of a family; secondly, because I am too intimately acquainted with you both to doubt that the result of your union must be happiness.

On my son's finishing his studies at the university, he kindly fixed his residence with me, anxiously devoting every moment of his life to the promotion of my comfort and happiness. Nor have I had a moment's reason to condemn his conduct. This excellent behaviour, and the firm conviction I feel that I am not much longer to be an inhabitant of this world, make me anxious for his happiness. Should you, therefore, condescend to have him, I can only say it will perfect my happiness, and I shall then close my eyes in peace. I must also add, that void of all partiality, I do not conceive you could select for your partner a more worthy character, or one so every way likely to contribute to your happiness. I ground this bold assertion on my knowledge of the solid virtues with which he is endowed.

I shall conclude by assuring you, that whatever your determination may be, I shall ever remain,

My dear Miss,

Your very sincere friend.

The Young Lady's Answer.

May 9th, 18—.

Dear Madam—From circumstances which have come to my knowledge, I feel assured that you have not overrated your son's good qualities; even

had you done so, I trust I am disposed to make every allowance for parental fondness.

I am satisfied, and as far as may relate to myself, I can assure you, that your son will experience no opposition; on the contrary, I shall feel myself honoured in being allied to so worthy a family. While I lament, dear madam, your bodily sufferings, I am almost tempted to envy you that pious resignation with which you submit to them. However, we will hope for the best, and trust when I have the honour of calling you mother, that my tender attentions, combined with those of your excellent son, will contribute to renovate your health, and preserve you many years as a blessing to us both.

I will thank you to present your son with the inclosed, and with fervent prayers for your better health believe me to be,

Dear madam,

Yours respectfully and affectionately.

From the Lady to her Lover, inclosed in the above

May 9th, 18—.

Dear Sir—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, and the one inclosed from your excellent mother. How happy ought you to be, in having such a parent! I need scarcely add, that my objections are now perfectly removed, as far as depends upon myself; but you will please to remember that my guardian's consent is yet to be procured, as without it I am resolved not to enter into so important an engagement as that of marriage, though my happiness depends, equally with your own, upon his giving a favourable reply. However, in the course of a few days I design to return to his

house, when I shall acquaint him with what has occurred, and state to him our mutual wishes, after which you shall immediately hear from me.

In the mean time, believe me to be,

Dear sir, yours very faithfully.

The Gentleman's Answer.

May 10th, 18—.

My beloved Jane—Ten thousand thanks are most justly due to you for your affectionate letter. It has elevated me to the extreme of happiness, for I may now hope the remainder of my life will be one continued scene of bliss. I rejoice, my dear Jane, that your letter appears to have had a wonderful effect upon my beloved mother; it has given her a fresh flow of health and spirits, her whole conversation is now devoted to the praise of you, my beloved. Need I add, that I never interrupt her on a subject so truly congenial to my heart? Indeed, I am apt to conclude, that I am more highly blessed than ever man was before, in the possession of such a mother and friend.

Keep me in suspense, my sweet girl, no longer than necessary, as you may readily imagine how anxious I must be to learn the decision of your guardian. However, hope shall support me with her benign smiles, till my beloved Jane herself informs me of my future destiny. She will, I trust, believe that words are infinitely too weak to convey those sentiments I would fain express; but my heart melts at the idea, and language fails. Adieu, my beloved, adieu! may the all-beneficent Creator guard and protect you, and speedily grant you to the arms of

Your devoted, your affectionate.

The Lady to her Lover.

May 15th, 18—.

Dear Henry—Agreeably to my promise, I hasten to remove your anxiety. Immediately on my arrival here, I stated our mutual wishes to my guardian, who highly approves of our projected union, and has authorized me to give you an immediate invitation to his house, in order that everything may be arranged without loss of time. Hasten then, with your mother, to meet us, my dear Henry, and be assured that you will be received in the most welcome manner by my guardian, as well as (need I say it?) by

Your affectionate and faithful.

The Gentleman's Answer.

May 16th, 18—.

I fly on the wings of love, my adored Jane, to meet you: my mother, equally happy with myself, accompanies me. A few short hours, and you will be my own for ever. Believe me, my life will be but too short for me to prove my gratitude. Adieu!—for a few short hours, adieu!—then we shall meet, never more to separate.

Ever your own devoted.

From a Gentleman to a Widow.

March 7th, 18—.

Madam—Since our first introduction, I have no longer been master of my own heart; your wit, beauty, and numerous good qualities, have enslaved it, and thus I offer it to your acceptance.

sive manner your professions seem to desire. Having already trod the path of conjugal happiness, it is a duty incumbent on me, not to mar my present widowed comforts by any delusive engagement; my former union having contributed to give me more correct views of life, requires that, previous to forming a second engagement, I should use a more matured discretion than may be expected from our sex in our tender years. Upon a better acquaintance, our views may be more congenial; until then, your regard for me will, I trust, spare me a reconsideration of your proposal. With the greatest respect for your kind attentions and esteem,

I remain, sir,

Yours most sincerely.

From a Journeyman Tradesman to his Intended Wife.

July 10th, 18—.

Dear Mary—Long before I was out of my apprenticeship, I had set my affections on you, and resolved when I was out of my time, to disclose my mind to you; you know that I am settled with a good master, at thirty dollars per month, and so long as I conduct myself as I have hitherto done, there is little fear of my being out of employment; this, my dear Mary, will be quite sufficient to make us comfortable, especially under your frugal management. You will not then, I trust, be averse to render me happy, by becoming mine; for were you to refuse me, you would make me the most miserable wretch on earth. Believe me, my love, my whole wish is to make you happy, and I feel assured you must have some regard for me, from

the many little kindnesses I have experienced from you.

Pray write to me early, and make me happy by consenting to become mine. For the present, farewell, and believe me to be

Your true and affectionate lover

The Answer.

July 12th, 18—.

Dear James—I have a long time suspected that you had some thoughts of me, but had no idea you would have been so hasty as to have made a proposal to me within a few months after being out of your apprenticeship. With regard to becoming yours, I cannot give you a denial; but I think that prudence requires some little delay, to realize those comforts which you, as well as myself, I am sure, would regret the want of; and I think they are more likely to be obtained when single; and if your love is as true as your profession, it will spur you on to the attainment of them. I think, my dear James, your own good sense will cause you to judge as I do on this subject; and that the better provision we make, before entering upon a mode of life, which, in all probability, may be productive of a variety of expenses, however frugal we may be, will be the most likely way to insure our own happiness, and the approbation of our relations. Trusting shortly to see you,

I remain, my dear James,

Yours most truly.

From an Officer to a Lady.

My adored Girl—Your beloved society was to me a source of the purest delight. You may

judge, therefore, from your own sentiments, how miserable the order for my removal from you made me. Driven almost to despair, I reprobated the service, and would have given worlds to have resigned my commission, but it fortunately came into my mind that I might still pour out the warm feelings of my heart to you, my beloved, by means of my pen; this soothed my grief, and supported me under our painful separation.

The amusements of this place afford no pleasure to me, it being impossible for me to enjoy that in which you do not partake: no, my beloved, my only happiness consists in fancying scenes of ideal bliss which can never be accomplished till you are mine for ever.

You are aware, Julia, that I was fearful of making your father acquainted with our mutual attachment, otherwise than by letter. The inclosed is for him; it contains a declaration of my affection for you; yet, acquainted as I am with his goodness, I am induced to hope for the most flattering result.

Expecting to hear from you by return of post,
I am, my beloved Julia,
Your faithful and affectionate lover.

To the Lady's Father, inclosed in the above.

June 4th, 18—.

Sir—The attentions I experienced from you at Portsmouth, are deeply impressed upon my heart, and in no small degree encourage me to venture upon the subject of this letter, so highly important, that my happiness or misery through life depends upon your determination. This circumstance will, I trust, plead my pardon.—On my first visit to

your house, the charms of your beloved daughter made a great impression upon my heart, and the many opportunities your hospitality gave me of frequently meeting her, only bound me more firmly her slave. But I could not resolve to acquaint you with the state of my heart; the agitation of parting from Julia, and the dread of incurring your displeasure, alone prevented this necessary explanation. However, while I candidly admit myself to be undeserving of so vast a treasure, I am induced to hope you will grant me the envied distinction I solicit.

I have written to my parents, who are too anxious to promote my happiness to throw any impediment in the way of my wishes, with regard to an alliance with your family. Believe me, dear and respected sir, that I address this letter to you with mingled feelings of fear and hope;—fear lest you should, by rejecting my suit, consign me to misery; and hope, under the flattering idea that you may, perhaps, pity my situation, and condescend to make me the happiest of men, in the possession of your lovely daughter.

Entreating of you to be my friend upon this occasion, and to pardon the warmth of youth when in anxious pursuit of a beloved object so worthy his warmest adoration,

I am, dear sir,

Yours with the highest respect.

The Lady's Answer.

June 7th, 18—.

Dear Orlando—Your own feelings will explain to you how welcome your dear letter was to your own affectionate Julia, and how grieved I was to

learn that you were compelled to tear yourself away from me, even for a short time; but, my dear Orlando, be assured that whether together or absent, your Julia is, and will be, eternally and affectionately your own. Should any obstruction arise, it must spring from yourself alone, as my happiness or misery in this world depends entirely upon your conduct; my very existence being interwoven with your well-being and general prosperity.

My father has directed me to transmit you the inclosed. I have every reason to suppose it will prove agreeable, though I can assure you I am totally ignorant of its contents, and can only surmise them, by our last night's conversation, when he hoped I should be as happy as he wished me.

I must acknowledge my pride is not a little gratified at your statement, "that you can enjoy no pleasures in which I do not share." It is an avowal, dear Orlando, which thrills my heart with unfeigned joy, and never shall you have, on my part, the smallest reason to think otherwise.

Anxiously expecting to hear from you soon,

I am, dear Orlando,

Inviolably yours.

The Father's Answer.

June 7th, 18—.

My dear Son—For such is the title by which I shall call you—I was much pleased with your letter, and candidly confess that you had long since insured my esteem, from the conviction that you were incapable of committing an improper action. Nor was I surprised at your candid avowal, having long suspected your mutual attachment. However,

not to keep you in unnecessary suspense, my dear and excellent girl is yours, because I feel perfectly assured you will be sensible of her merits, of the great sacrifice I make, and of your own happiness in the entire possession of her heart. Should Providence bless you with a child, you will then be aware of what I now feel. I have only, therefore, to add, that as soon as you can pay us a visit, I am ready to resign my dear girl to your protection; thus placing in your honour the greatest confidence I can. With my most fervent prayers for your mutual happiness,

am, dear sir,

Most affectionately yours.

From an Officer ordered Abroad.

August 1st, 18—.

My dearest Louisa—It is with a heavy heart I address you, having received orders for instant embarkation for the West Indies. The unwelcome intelligence came like a thunderbolt upon me, as I had been enjoying the fond hope that, in a few days, you, my dear Louisa, would have been your own George's for ever. All the imaginary scenes of bliss which I had fondly promised myself, now vanish like a mere delusion; and I am compelled to exert my utmost fortitude to retain even a faint hope of their realization; yet something buoys me up with the pleasurable idea that I shall again see you; and then, my dear Louisa, I trust that our union will be celebrated, which will ever rivet me to your beloved person. Were it not, my dear girl, for the honour which demands my attention to the call of absence, I would freely sacrifice all to you: but considering that my absence may not be of

any great duration, and should Providence protect me through the hazardous enterprises of my profession, and spare me for my Louisa, the orders which at present give me so much anxiety and pain may, ultimately prove beneficial to my honour and interest, and a source of comfort to us both.

Under this impression I embark, cheered with the firmest reliance on my dear girl's constancy, conscious that Louisa could never wound that heart which loves her. Were you to prove unfaithful to vows so solemnly made, then I could not live. Remember, therefore, my adored girl, that in your hands is reposed my life. Believe me, when I assert, that no part of my conduct shall cause my Louisa to blush for her lover.

Cultivate, my charming friend, the friendship of my excellent mother and sisters: it will yield an additional pleasure to your devoted lover. I am confident that, for my sake, as well as from your personal merits, they will highly value your good opinion. Farewell, my beloved! Wherever I am, or whatever I do, my thoughts will be upon you. Nothing can change the tender sincerity of my heart, and I am proudly conscious that nothing can deprive me of yours. I trust circumstances will soon permit of my return; then, in leading my Louisa to the altar, my happiness will be perfect, and I shall have no wish ungratified. Remember me. Farewell! I am, my beloved maid,
Your ever devoted lover.

The Lady's Answer.

August 12th, 18—.

My dearest George—The very unexpected intelligence contained in your letter, has overwhelmed me with the greatest affliction, so much so that

I am scarce able to express my feelings at the melancholy news; but in your own affectionate heart you may readily imagine what I suffer.

If it be possible, my dear George, do procure leave of absence, if it be only for a few hours, that I may take a farewell of him whom I may never see again. The precarious chance of life attendant on your profession, fills me with the utmost anxiety, and the thoughts of my George's suffering from the fatal implements of destruction, thrills my heart with horror; as yet, I have only been enabled to picture to myself scenes of the most melancholy nature, which, unless succeeded by some brighter prospects, will certainly bereave me of my reason. Depend upon it, my dear George, I shall cultivate the friendship of your family; but as to affording them any consolation, it will, I fear, be wholly out of my power, as I stand in too much need of it myself. Perhaps it may mutually afford relief to sympathize in each other's feelings, for certainly every expression of regard and feeling for the welfare of him I love, consoles me in some degree, and elicits a ray of hope that my forebodings may be delusive.

I fear, my dear George, you will think I have been wholly regardless of your sensitive heart, in portraying my feelings in a strain of such despondency; but be assured I will endeavour to exert my fortitude, and hope for the best, sincerely praying that Providence may protect you during your absence—and with the most ardent wishes for your health and prosperity,

I shall always continue,

Your own truly affectionate.

From a Rich Gentleman to a Lady, with a Proposal of Marriage.

August 1st, 18—.

Madam—You will, perhaps, be surprised at receiving a letter from me ; but as I have written it with the most honourable motives, I trust I may expect your pardon should the contents not be perfectly congenial to your views.

However, I have every reason to conclude that in making you a proposal consistent with the passion I bear you, that I am not tresspassing on a heart already bestowed on some favoured object. I therefore flatter myself that I may not be altogether unsuccessful in arriving at the happy preference to which I ardently aspire.

My circumstances and station of life you are fully aware of, and I am happy to say that although there may be a disparity in point of fortune, nevertheless the very amiable qualities of your heart, and accomplishments of person, which have truly riveted my affections on you, have made such an impression on my family, that I can assure you, it would afford them the highest pleasure imaginable to reckon you in the number of their relations.

Having prefaced, my dear madam, thus far, permit me to entreat a favourable reception of my attentions ; and believe me that your consent will make me the happiest of my sex ; on the contrary, madam, a refusal will render me the most miserable of beings ; and I feel confident that a heart so truly amiable, will never give a moment's pain to one who is truly fascinated with your charms, unless some fatal obstacle should exist, of which I am wholly unconscious. Anxiously expecting an

answer, which may allay the unsettled feelings which at present agitate a heart wholly yours,

I am, dear madam,

Your sincere and affectionate admirer

The Lady's Answer.

August 3d, 18—.

I am truly sensible of the honour you have conferred on me, by the proposal which your letter contains, and can assure you I should be doing an injustice to my own feelings, were I to express sentiments in reply, otherwise than agreeable to your professed wish; the main difficulty to a concession on my part, is fully and agreeably removed, by the very flattering estimation in which you represent me to be held by your amiable and beloved family; had not that been the case, it would have been with much reluctance (supposing it to have been possible) that you would have elicited a consent from me, as I am too well aware of the unhappiness which generally ensues, from the protracted scorn and contempt of haughty relatives, where marriages are formed upon a disparity of fortune. But as I feel convinced that the merits of your family are not to be estimated by any ordinary standard, and that their most ardent wish is to promote your comfort and happiness, believe me, dear sir, I feel highly gratified at the honour of being considered by them worthy of being elevated to the most prominent station, as a contributor to it.

You will have the goodness to present my most dutiful respects to them, and accept the sincere and tender affection

Of your respectful
and honoured.

The Gentleman's Reply.

August 4th, 18—.

My dearest Maria—Your agreeable letter has afforded the highest gratification to my dear relatives, and the most lively emotions of love for the heart that has consented to make me happy, in a flow of such affectionate dignity. The compliment you have been pleased to pay my relations, I most sensibly feel; and be assured you will not be deceived in the impression you entertain of their amiable qualities, when you have gratified the summit of my happiness, in becoming for ever my own dear Maria.

My dear mother and sisters depart to-morrow for Brighton, which will unavoidably interfere with some of the pleasing arrangements I had formed for our mutual pleasures; therefore, to give me some consolation on that head, I must entreat your consent to accompany them to that busy scene of fashion, as your Edward has no alternative but to accompany them. In granting me this most agreeable favour, you will, my dear girl, not only dispel the peevish gloom which I am confident will hang over me while deprived of your fascinating society, but add a lustre to our glow of pleasure during our stay at that healthy and lively coast.

I trust, therefore, you will permit my sister Julia to wait on your amiable protectress, and obtain her sanction for the desired recreation; in the mean time, anticipating a favourable answer,

I remain,

Your affectionate lover

The Lady's Reply.

August 6th, 18—.

My dear Edward—It is truly gratifying to me to find that an humble individual like myself, should not only have had the opportunity, but the agreeable pleasure, to aid the views of your dear and respected mother, in promoting your wishes and happiness, and especially so, since my fond heart is a participator in the general joy. The lively sentiments I expressed in respect to your amiable family, which you have been pleased to adorn with the appellation of compliments, were, I can assure you, the genuine dictates of my heart, and I think I can claim some little credit to truth, since my unconstrained happiness for life has been partly ventured on the fact.

You have requested, my dear Edward, that I will consent to accompany your dear mother and lovely sisters to Brighton; but what have you advanced in favour of this consent, which you require? not that they have expressed any wish on the subject, but simply a polite request of your own; and you conceive this to be an all-persuasive allurements to obtain my society at Brighton. Indeed, my Edward, that is the only inducement you have deigned to compliment me with; but, lest your Maria should be so cruel as to elicit for a moment "a peevish gloom," from the countenance unaccustomed to dejection, she will, in compassion to a lover's letter, believe all that was intended, and accept an invitation, which will be highly gratifying to her feelings, especially as her dear Edward will be of the party.

My dear Mrs. S—— particularly congratulates me on the happy prospect before me, and feels

much delighted at the pleasure I shall experience in an excursion to Brighton; therefore, when my dear Julia shall afford me the honour of a visit, there will be no occasion for a display of her charming and persuasive eloquence to attain your wishes.

Returning your respected mother my sincere thanks for the honour conferred, and begging you to present my love to your dear sisters,

I remain,

Ever your affectionate.

The Gentleman's Reply.

August 7th, 18—.

My lovely Girl—The conclusion of your dear letter has enchanted my very soul: to contemplate the pleasures of Brighton in the society of the girl I adore, almost persuades me that I have become the object of delusion in some fairy scene; you will, I am sure, pardon the apparent formality of the terms I used in allusion to your generous feelings with regard to my family, and I am sure your amiable heart will attribute the expression to its true cause, which can only be accounted for by your own dear self having wholly absorbed my imagination; the same generous allowance, I trust, will be made, for the absence of mind exhibited in soliciting the pleasure of your accompanying us to Brighton; the formidable gaiety you have displayed in so acutely controverting my apparent inattention to a chaste mode of invitation, endears you the more (if possible) to my already captivated soul. My dearest Maria, exhilarated with the happy thought of being blessed with your society, I feel lost in attending to the necessary pre-

parations for our journey, and have more than once had to encounter the allusive repartees of my dear sisters. Anxiously waiting the desired hour of our departure,

I remain,

Yours affectionately.

From a Young Man commencing business in Boston, to his Intended Wife in the Country.

July 2d, 18—.

My dear Anne—Having commenced business in town with every prospect of success, I feel myself enabled to make the proposal to you which I have long sighed to possess the ability to do; you have long known my intention towards you, and I flatter myself, that the length of time which has elapsed since I had the pleasure of seeing you, has not impaired the impression which I fondly hoped I had made on your heart. With respect to my own feelings, I can assure you, that they are more alive than ever to your merits and charms.

Let me entreat you, therefore, not to keep me in suspense; but, by returning a favourable answer, grant me the delightful satisfaction of knowing that I may call you my own, and begging that you will not protract the time of our happy union

I remain, my dear Anne, yours.

The Answer.

July 14th, 18—.

Dear George—Your letter has given me the greatest pleasure imaginable, as well as my family in general. I always felt certain that your steadiness and industry could not fail of promoting your

prosperity, any more than your fidelity swerve from the avowed object of your affections; that I shall feel happy in uniting myself with you, you need not doubt; the only regret I shall experience in so doing, is, that of bidding a long adieu to my parents, and losing the society of some sincere and valuable friends; but being confident that my dear George will fully repay the loss by his affectionate attentions to me, I shall cheerfully embrace the opportunity of accompanying him to Boston as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made for so doing.

My dear parents desire to be remembered to you, and pray that every earthly blessing and happiness may attend our union, which is also the sincere prayer of

Your faithful and affectionate

From a Lady rejecting a Gentleman's Addresses.

October 7th, 18—.

Sir—I duly appreciate the honour conferred on me, in the sentiments of your letter, but am under the necessity of informing you, that it is wholly out of my power to accept your proffered attentions; my heart has long been engaged to another, whose return to this country I am daily anxiously expecting; your good sense will, therefore, dictate the propriety of relinquishing any farther correspondence on a subject which can only give pain to one, who has always held you in the highest estimation in the quality of a friend, trusting that your fortitude will easily obliterate a passion unconsciously excited by me,

I remain, sir, with respect,

Your faithful friend.

A Refusal of an Offer of Marriage by a Widow.

June 13th, 18—.

Sir—I am particularly surprised at the receipt of a letter from you, upon a subject which nothing but the most daring assurance could have dictated. Setting aside the short period of our acquaintance, and the disparity of our years, I should have conceived that a decent consideration for the late affliction I have sustained, in the loss of a dear and affectionate partner, might have protected me from such a disagreeable intrusion. I can assure you, sir, after having so wantonly trespassed on my feelings, I shall dispense with any further acquaintance with you.

I am, sir,

Yours respectfully.

From a Lady rejecting a Gentleman's Addresses.

October 19th, 18—.

Sir—Having never given you the slightest reason to imagine that your attentions were agreeable to me, I could not be otherwise than surprised at the receipt of your letter, containing an avowal of love, and the offer of your hand.

I am duly sensible of the compliment you have thus paid to me, and shall feel pleasure in ranking you among my most respected friends; more than this I cannot do, my heart having long been the property of another; and to him alone will my hand be given.

Having made this candid declaration, I trust you will banish from your bosom every trace of a passion which can never be successful, and consequently be only productive of unhappiness to yourself and friends, amongst the number of whom

I hope you will in future consider her who is fully sensible of your worth, though faithfully devoted to another.

I am, dear sir,

Your very obedient servant.

From a Sailor to his Intended Wife.

October 10th, 18—.

Dearest Mary—An order has just arrived for our ship to sail immediately for the East Indies, where it is probable we shall remain for three years; but notwithstanding this, my dear girl, be assured that neither time nor absence will make any alteration in the affectionate heart of your devoted sailor. Keep up your spirits, then, my dear, and fear not on account of your lover, for

“There’s a sweet little cherub that sits up aloft,
To watch for the life of poor Jack.”

And be assured that whatever may be our course, you will be the pole towards which the needle of my affections will constantly turn.

I have got my half of the sixpence which we broke between us, and will preserve it as a sacred deposit; and should I fall among the glorious dead, it shall accompany me to my watery grave.

Remember me, dearest Mary, and I trust that Fortune with her smile will soon enable me to return with wealth and honour, to lay them at your feet. May fair winds and a prosperous voyage attend you through life; and, in expectation of an early answer,

I am, dearest, lovely Mary,

Your affectionate lover.

The Answer.

October 12th, 18—.

My dearest John—Your kind letter, my dearest soul, has made me very unhappy. Indeed, it is cruel that we must part just at the moment when I expected we should be married. However, God's will be done!

Be careful of yourself, my dear John, and remember that if any misfortune happens to you, I shall not long survive it. I am too happy in knowing how truly you love me, which causes me the more sorrow at the thought of parting from you. I have sent you, by the mail-coach, a few articles, which I am sure you will value for the sake of the giver; and be assured, whenever it shall please God for your return, you will find me

Your still constant, faithful, and

Affectionate true love.

From a Jealous Lover to his Intended Wife.

October 20th, 18--.

My dear Selina—Ah! my Selina, for I cannot intertain the dreadful thought for a moment that you are not mine, how can you be so cruel as to harrow my feelings by a pointed display of your attentions to young men, who, but for your too apparent solicitude for their compliments, would have had no pretext for wounding a heart by their assiduity to acknowledge the marked distinction with which you treated them; I had fondly hoped that the vows of mutual fidelity, and reciprocal love, with which we had pledged each other, would never have been erased from your tender bosom, but alas! what have I not to fear from the agonized feelings I experienced yesterday evening. If, my

lovely Selina, you have the smallest respect for your vows, or the least spark of that attractive flame, which once seemed to glow for your now desponding Alfred, you will, by returning me a consolatory answer, heal the wounds you have so cruelly inflicted on a heart so devotedly your own : oh ! Selina, let me but once again believe you are mine, and you will banish a load of misery from a heart tenderly and sincerely devoted to you.

I am, cruel Selina,

Your truly unhappy.

The Lady's Answer.

October 22d, 18—.

My dear Alfred—Who could have supposed that you, who have made such ardent professions of tenderness, could have charged me, your own Selina, with cruelty ? Were it not that I have, in compassion to your present feelings, condescended to attribute the charge to an over-sensitive heart, you would not have received any consolatory explanation of the circumstances which seem deeply to have affected you ; the young men of whom you appear to be so nonsensically jealous, have been from children most intimately connected with our family, and not having had the pleasure of a visit from them for some years, and the particular marks of attention and respect with which I have been invariably treated by their respective families, might have caused that assiduity which they have a right to expect, and my own conscious feelings could not have refused ; sorry should I be, my dear Alfred, to cause you a moment's uneasiness ; but since the whole affair has been purely accidental, I cannot but say that I am pleased in some mea-

sure with the result, since it has convinced me that your professions of love were genuine, and that I have no occasion to despair of a continuation of those affections, over which I appear to have some control, provided you will be equally alive to the exercise of your own good sense, in suppressing timely such ridiculous paroxysms of jealousy.

I am, my dear Alfred,

Yours affectionately.

From a Widower to a Lady.

March 1st, 18—.

Madam—When in my youth I attached myself to my late lamented wife, whose memory I cherish with reverence, I imagined it would be impossible ever to feel the impressions of love for another. In this opinion, however, my judgment was founded on error.

During the period of this lamented woman's life, I was the happiest of men, my felicity being increased by the birth of three lovely children. And when the moment of our separation arrived, I felt genuine sorrow, resulting from the purity of my love, and my irreparable loss.

Be not, therefore, surprised, when I avow that my heart is devoted to you; and that the affection I bore to that lovely saint, has taught me to appreciate those charms in which you perfectly resemble her. I have shown every respect to her memory, and shall ever fondly remember her. From her I have learned the value of an amiable wife, and would anxiously devote every hour of my existence to promote the happiness of such a female.

You, madam, are the person on whom my af-

fections are placed. I am of a domestic turn of mind, and I tenderly love my motherless children. Will you, by accepting my hand, fill the duties of that important station, and make their father once more happy?

I am, dear madam,

Ever tenderly, yours.

The Answer.

March 4th, 18—.

Sir—I sincerely believe you are the only man who ever ventured to profess love for a lady, by the most affectionate praises of his first wife; but be assured, sir, such tenderness towards a lovely, deserving, and departed female, adds to my respect for your character, by convincing me that your professions are sincere, and that your heart is calculated to enjoy that pure happiness which results from domestic endearments.

I am ready to admit, with that candour which I trust is correct, that neither your person, character, nor manners, are disagreeable to me; on the contrary, from the earliest period of our acquaintance, I have highly esteemed you.

Respecting your children, it would be with an additional motive of attachment; and, I am confident, were I to take upon me the place of their late invaluable mother, that I should love them equally with my own, and anxiously endeavour to discharge my duties towards them, in such a manner, that the spirit of their departed mother (whom I loved whilst living, and lament now dead,) might look down from her blessed abode with approbation on my conduct.

I am flattered that you think me worthy of supplying the place of such an excellent woman, nor

have I the smallest objection to your wishes ; but, on a point so truly important, it is my duty to require the advice of my friends, of whom my brother is the principal.

I am, sir,

Your very affectionate friend.

The Gentleman's Rejoinder.

March 6th, 18—.

Dear Madam—Your friendly letter was such as I expected to receive from a lady of your sterling sense and candour. The intimacy existing between our respective families, must have made you acquainted with my disposition ; you will, therefore, not expect from me any romantic language or professions, on account of your affectionate and frank avowal of esteem. No, madam, all I say upon that subject is, that should you honour me with your hand, I will endeavour to express the sense I entertain of your virtues and my own happiness, by the constant promotion of your felicity in the discharge of the duties attached to the character of an affectionate husband and a steady friend. Convinced that you will not keep me in unnecessary suspense,

I am, dear madam,

Your ever faithful friend,
and affectionate admirer.

The Lady's Answer.

March 8th, 18—.

Dear Sir—I am highly gratified at the compliment you pay to my understanding, by refraining from romantic professions, which, had you offered

them, would have degraded me in my own estimation.

I made my brother and other friends acquainted with your proposal to me, and am happy to say their decision agrees with my own. You are, therefore, welcome to receive my hand whenever you think proper to claim it, and I can only hope that I shall discharge the duties with which you will then invest me, so as to promote your happiness, insure my own, and preserve your respect and love.

My brother writes to you by this post. I have no doubt but that you will find his letter equally agreeable to your wishes as my own.

I am, my dear sir,

Yours truly.

The Brother's Letter.

March 9th, 18—.

Dear Sir—My sister having thought proper to require my advice upon the proposal made by you, I have given my unqualified approbation, and can assure you that I consider myself and family distinguished by your flattering preference, whilst I am convinced that Emma will secure her happiness upon a solid foundation in uniting herself to so worthy a man.

Hoping that you will lose no time in paying us a visit, when my sister shall be immediately yours, I am, dear sir,

Your affectionate friend,

I hope soon to add, brother.

The Gentleman's Answer to the Lady's Brother.

March 11th, 18—.

My dear Friend—Your letter has added materially to my happiness, though nothing can ever increase that sincere estimation in which I have long held you.

You may be assured that your Emma's happiness will be secure in my hands.

I hope to be with you early next —, when I trust my happiness will be rendered perfect, by receiving the hand of your much-loved sister. Requesting that you will attribute the brevity of my letter to the great pressure of business, I am, my dear sir, with assurances of the most sincere esteem,

Your highly obliged,
and very affectionate friend.

The Gentleman's Answer to the Lady.

March 11th, 18—.

Dearest Emma—Your charming letter has removed a weighty load from my heart, and I may now calculate upon the speedy enjoyment of every possible happiness. Be assured I am truly sensible of my great obligations to you and your worthy brother, and that I shall never forget them, but endeavour, by every method in my power, to repay at least some part of them.

After your affectionate invitation, you must not expect that I shall delay my promised happiness; you may, therefore, expect me on — next, when, agreeably to your promise, I shall, my dearest Emma, claim your hand, under the conviction that I possess your heart. May you never, my beloved,

regret the confidence you thus repose in me, nor repent the hour which allowed your affectionate lover to avow himself the most happy of his sex in being your husband.

I am, my beloved,
Yours, ever yours.

From a Gentleman breaking off a Match with a Lady.

April 11th, 18—.

Madam—From several circumstances which have occurred, I feel assured that our marriage would be only productive of mutual misery, especially as I with sorrow perceive that our dispositions are by no means alike.

Thus impressed, it is best to retreat in time. I have, therefore, to state, that I beg permission to decline all future intercourse of a tender nature.

I am, madam,
Your obedient servant.

From a Gentleman to a Lady.

January 11th, 18—.

Madam—from the length of our intimacy, you must have discovered that my heart is devoted to you. I have constantly endeavoured, by every attention in my power, to prove the tenderness with which your numerous charms have inspired me.

I have flattered myself that I am not disagreeable to you, and that I might expect a mutual degree of attachment from you. Say then, madam, may I venture to make you an offer of my hand—my heart you have long entirely possessed. You

are intimately acquainted with my circumstances and disposition. To this I can only add, that my happiness or misery through life depends altogether on the reply you make to this offer. I shall employ no compliments, neither shall I insult your good sense by idle promises; but should you accept me as your protector through life, all my anxiety will be how to promote your happiness, and at the same time to retain possession of your heart, for which I shall be amply repaid in seeing that you are gratified with my conduct. On the contrary, should you reject my offer, I shall never again enjoy true peace of mind; yet, I trust, even in that case, that you will be happy with the man whom you may bless with your hand, and that you will honour with your friendship

Your very affectionate,
faithful friend.

The Answer.

January 14th, 18—.

Sir—I reply to your letter with the utmost candour, as I conceive the more explicit our sentiments upon a subject which involves many, and oftentimes serious, passions and inquietudes, the better. That I am not unmindful of your worth, I frankly own, and judge that there can be no impropriety in admitting your attentions as a suitor.

But with regard to the success of the enterprise in which you have engaged, that must wholly result from a continuation of the feelings with which my present notions of your merits has impressed me.

As I have not yet fallen into the bewitching dilemma of absolute captivation, I shall hold you in the ordeal of probation, till I am enabled, with

more mature consideration, to cast the die on which depends my own freedom and happiness.

I am, dear sir,

Your sincere friend.

From a Gentleman to a Lady, inclosing a Portrait of Himself.

December 1st, 18—.

Dear Jane—As a few days will perfect my happiness, by making you my bride, I have procured this toy, with a hope that you will be gratified by its reception. Begging you to wear it on your lovely bosom for the sake of him who presents it,

I am, my sweet maid,

Ever yours.

The Answer.

December 3d, 18—.

My dear John—I am infinitely obliged to you for your invaluable present, and can assure you that, next to the original, I shall ever esteem it to be my richest possession.

Let me see and hear from my dearest John as frequently as possible, till the happy day arrives on which we shall be united never more to separate.

I am, my love,

Your fondly affectionate.

From a Lady to her Lover, refusing a Present.

December 3d, 18—.

My dear Charles—I have herewith returned the present you were kind enough to send me, and I trust you will not be offended at my doing so. I

do not consider it by any means proper for young females to receive presents from gentlemen, even though under a mutual engagement. It is upon this principle only that I refuse your gift. Reserve, therefore, such testimonials of affection till I become your happy wife; then, indeed, I shall receive them with rapture from the hand of a beloved husband. I am, my dear Charles,

With the most faithful love,

Ever your own.

*From a Gentleman to a Lady greatly his Superior
in Rank and Fortune.*

July 6th, 18.—

Madam—I have no excuse to offer for my presumption in addressing this letter to a lady so greatly my superior, except my ardent love and admiration, which will be sufficient, I hope, to plead my pardon, and to procure me your pity.

I have long tenderly loved you with the utmost fondness, but, till this moment, could never resolve to make a disclosure of my passion, on account of the inequality of our situations.

Say then, madam, will you permit me to make you an offer of my hand and heart? Will you suffer me to indulge the pleasing expectation of receiving from you a return of mutual love?

I can only add, that I am duly sensible of my temerity, but should you condescend to accept my proposal, and by uniting your destiny with mine, make me the happiest of men, then shall my life be devoted to the constant promotion of your happiness.

I am, dear madam,

Ever yours.

The Answer.

July 7th, 18—.

Sir—As from the whole tenor of your conduct, I have long flattered myself with the possession of your heart, I will confess that I was not much surprised at the receipt of your letter.

Believe me, sir, I consider the mere distinction arising from birth or wealth, as idle things. With this impression upon my mind, I feel no hesitation in avowing that I have long loved you with a mutual warmth of affection. Consequently, I can offer no objection to the proposal you have honoured me with; and I consider myself highly distinguished in being selected by you as the female worthy of becoming your wife.

Having made this confession, I shall not endeavour to restrain your happiness by any false affectation of reserve, but content myself with stating that I am ready to become your wife; for which purpose I leave the necessary arrangements to you.

I am, dear sir,

Yours faithfully.

Another Answer.

July 10th, 18—.

Sir—I certainly was considerably surprised at the receipt of your letter, containing an offer of your hand. Surely, sir, you must have been labouring under some degree of mental derangement when you wrote it, otherwise you could not have the presumption to hope for a return of love from a person so greatly your superior as I am.

Wishing you to consider this reply as a positive

rejection of your suit, I trust you will not address any future letters to me; if you do, I shall be under the painful necessity of returning them unopened.

I have the honour to be,
Sir, yours, &c.

From an Offended Lover to his Mistress.

September 10th, 18—.

Madam— I once fondly imagined that Rosalia could not intentionally wound the heart too tenderly devoted to herself; but, madam, your late conduct has, to my eternal sorrow, dispelled my pleasing error. Be it so: I will endeavour to submit to my cruel fate; and, unless I experience a different mode of treatment, I must (however painful it may be) bid you

Farewell for ever.

The Lady's Answer.

September 11th, 18—.

Dear John—Perhaps some excuse may be made for your cruel letter, arising from the violence of an unbounded passion. I am, therefore, ready to forgive your unmerited censures, but only on condition of their being never repeated.

Should you, therefore, be at leisure to call upon me this evening, I doubt not but that every part of my conduct can be explained to your satisfaction.

I am, ever yours.

Rejecting an offer of Marriage.

July 4th, 18—.

Sir—After the decided disapprobation I have constantly evinced to your attentions, I was rather surprised at receiving an offer of marriage from you.

I am sorry that you have thus placed me under the disagreeable necessity of speaking on a subject so repugnant to my feelings; but candour and truth compel me to return an instant and positive negative to your proposal.

I trust, therefore, you will no longer persist in disturbing, by such unavailing efforts, the peace of, sir,

Your obedient servant.

LETTERS

BETWEEN

FRIENDS AND RELATIVES.

From a Gentleman in Distress to his Friend.

July 10th, 18—.

Dear Sir—Unfortunate circumstances have suddenly reduced me from a state of respectability and comfort, to, I have every reason to fear, absolute want and misery; and what adds more severely to the poignancy of my feelings, is, that I cannot surmise a hope that I shall ever be relieved from its awful pressure.

Thus circumstanced, I should not be acting honourably, were I not to return, herewith, the article I purchased from you under the expectation of being enabled to pay for it in a few days; but so isolated am I from every prospect of so doing, that I even dread the want of ability to procure a bare subsistence for myself and family. Even this extremity of misfortune, however, cannot induce me to commit an unjust act towards one who has reposed confidence in me.

I beg leave to assure you how highly sensible I am of your good intentions towards me; and I trust, notwithstanding my present distress, you will still honour me with your correspondence, as it affords me great consolation in my present struggles and affliction, to find that I am not wholly abandoned by one whom I have ever valued for his merits.

I am, sir,

Your faithful, though unfortunate friend.

The Answer.

July 11th, 18—.

My dear Sir—Your letter of yesterday afternoon occasioned me great uneasiness. I regret to hear of your unhappy condition; but hope for better times.

I return the article you mention, and beg you will not make yourself uneasy about it. May I also beg you to allow me to send you the inclosed; I only regret it is so small a sum. However, knowing that a trifle, under some circumstances, is more important than a large sum under others, I am emboldened to transmit it to you, with assu-

rances of respect and esteem. Present my kind remembrance to your family.

I remain, dear sir,

Yours most faithfully.

From a Young Gentleman at School to his Father.

June 5th, 18—.

My dear Father—My worthy master has directed me to write to you, requesting you to transmit me the books named in the margin, as I have been advanced into another class, having passed the necessary examination, much to my credit, as Dr. Jackson, our examiner, was pleased to state.

I have already commenced reading Virgil and Livy; and, in arithmetic, as far as vulgar fractions. I am certain this news will give you much pleasure, and I trust I shall always obtain your praise for my attention to my studies and improvement, as it is the only recompense I can give you for your unwearied exertions for my benefit.

Hoping to hear from you shortly, I am, my dear father,

Your affectionate and dutiful son.

The Father's Answer.

June 7th, 18—.

Dear Son—I was much gratified by the receipt of your letter, particularly as I perceive you are greatly improved in your writing.

You may be assured, my dear Charles, that the whole of my conduct respecting you arises from an ardent desire to promote your future comfort and prosperity.

I rejoice to hear of your progress, and you may depend upon invariably receiving my approbation when your conduct merits it. In the present instance, to convince you of it, I have written to your master, authorizing him to supply you with the books, and to increase your weekly allowance.

I am, dear Charles,

Your affectionate parent.

*From a Gentleman to his Friend, being an Apology
for having disappointed him.*

August 3d, 18—.

Sir—I have sincerely to apologize to you for not returning according to my promise, but having met with a gentleman who has just returned from Italy, I was induced to make some inquiries concerning his route and adventures, when, to my surprise, I found that he had been intimately acquainted with my son, who, you are aware, has been, for some time, studying painting in that fertile region of the arts.

Allured by his conversation, and particularly with his relation of several agreeable adventures he had had, in company with my son, the hours glided away so imperceptibly, that it was midnight before I had the least recollection of my engagement with you: begging that you and Mrs. Cleveland will accept my cordial assurances of esteem and respect,

I am, dear sir,

Yours, with the greatest respect.

Another.

August 3d, 18—.

Sir—The promise I made you of spending last evening with your amiable family, totally escaped my memory, until so late an hour, that it would only have been trespassing on your hours of repose to have paid you a visit at that unseasonable time. I have little doubt of obtaining your pardon for this infraction of good manners, when I lay before you the circumstances which mutually disappointed us of the anticipated enjoyment.

As I was on my way down Market street, I observed a respectably-dressed female basely assaulted by a fellow, who, upon being remonstrated with, had the audacious insolence to give her in charge of the watch, as being the party aggrieved; 'tis true, at the moment I concluded her to be one of those unfortunates who are but too much experienced in scenes of this nature; but filled with indignation at such an unmanly action, and forgetful of my engagement, I resolutely remonstrated against the official activity of the watchman, in dragging off an unoffending victim to the cage, doubtless, for the purpose of extorting money, when lo! I found myself a prisoner, and about to be as abruptly accommodated with a lodging as the unfortunate lady. On our arrival at this mighty seat of judgment, I witnessed the most vile charge of assault with intent to commit a robbery, made with the most barefaced effrontery that can be imagined, and your humble servant charged as an aider and abettor in this said crime; fortunately, among the auditory at this tribunal I recognized my worthy friend, Alderman ———, who immediately spoke to me; and it would have delighted

you, had you seen the alteration in these guardians of the night, and how quickly the tables were turned, from the greatest pomposity and wilful deafness to truth, to an assiduous attention to commit the actual aggressor, right or wrong, which was instantly effected; but judge of my surprise, when I discovered that this unoffending female was no less a personage than our worthy friend, Mrs. Jenkins, who was just stepping into Sixth street, to obtain a coach, having missed the Lancaster stage by a few minutes. You may be assured, after the alarm and fright which she had experienced, I accompanied her home, and accepted a bed from our mutual friend. Fearing that I have tired you with a recapitulation of my adventure,

I remain, dear sir,

Your sincere friend.

From a Son-in-Law in Philadelphia, to his Father-in-Law in Boston.

May 9th, 18—.

Dear Sir—I received your last, dated the 6th instant, with much pleasure, as some time has elapsed since the receipt of your preceding epistle. We rejoice to hear that you and the family are well; nothing can be more gratifying, being at such a distance from you,—patience, and we may shortly meet. I confess, the bare idea of such a happiness, yields me inexpressible content.

My dear Susan and I jog on as usual; I smoke, she reads,—I read, she works; now and then we have two or three agreeable visitors, chiefly divines; we promenade, in short, amuse ourselves very sociably; yesterday I took her over Schuylkill, a

long journey for her ; but the pleasure repays the labour of a long walk.

Dear sir,

Your affectionate son.

From a Gentleman to his Son, whose Conduct displeased him.

uly 12th, 18—.

William—I am truly grieved to find that all my remonstrances have been thrown away upon you, and that the advice I have given to you, which originated solely from the tender affection I bear towards you, continues to be treated with contempt. It therefore becomes my solemn though melancholy duty, to act with determination. I am resolved to do so, and no entreaties shall prevent me from resorting to every mode of punishment remaining in my power, unless you make an immediate reformation in your conduct.

In pursuance of this plan, I have given my agents a positive order never to advance you a single shilling on my account ; and when your money is gone, young man, you will also then discover your real friends, though I greatly fear you have not one in the universe, with the exception of your injured and insulted father, who is yet even anxious to save you from utter destruction. I have only to add, that should you still continue to persist in your present debauched line of conduct, I will for ever close my doors against you, and never exchange either a letter or syllable with you whilst I live.

Think, young man, I most earnestly conjure you, upon what I have said, before it is too late, and fly to the arms of your afflicted father, while they are yet extended to receive you.

I remain, your well-wisher.

The Answer.

July 14th, 18--.

Sir—For I dare not address you by the tender appellation of father, my cheeks burn with shame and sorrow whilst I am writing to you. Your justly merited and truly severe letter, though blended with parental mercy, has at length opened my eyes to a proper view of the enormity of my conduct, and the amazing ingratitude I have exhibited towards you, one of the best of parents. Indeed, sir, I can hardly believe that your tender affection for your unworthy son, can ever induce you cordially to pardon so depraved a creature as I am.

Believe me, sir, I am sensible of my past folly, of my unkind treatment of yourself, and of your undeserved affection. Pardon me what I have done, and be assured that, from this moment, I will for ever quit those evil debauched paths in which I too long unfortunately strayed; and, by the constant propriety of my future behaviour, endeavour to deserve your proffered clemency, and to regain that portion of your love which I certainly deserve to lose for ever.

You tell me, sir, that your arms are still open to receive me; I shall fly to them with the hope that, when your guilty, though penitent, son is folded to your heart, you will then seal his pardon for the past, and again permit him to call you his dear, his beloved father.

I am, sir,

Your unhappy, though repentant, son

Colonel Stedman to his Son.

August 1st, 18--.

My dear John—As the last good I can do for

you in this world, I now join to the trifles I leave you these few lines, and which I beg of you often to read for his sake, who ever loved you so tenderly. Above all thing, fear God as the Supreme Author of all good; love him in your soul, and be religious; but detest every tincture of hypocrisy.

Regard your neighbour, that is, all mankind, and of whatever nation, profession, or faith, while they are honest, and be ever so thyself; it is the best policy in the end, depend upon it.

Guard against idleness; it is the root of every misery, to which bad company gives the finishing stroke.

Love economy without avarice, and be ever thyself thy best friend.

Fly from the excesses of debauchery; they will rot thy body, while they are a canker in thy mind. To keep both sound, my dear, be never behindhand with thy correspondent, with thy creditor, with thy daily occupations, or with thy conscience, and thy soul shall enjoy peace.

By using air, exercise, diet, and recreation, thy body shall possess health and vigour.

Dear John, should fortune frown, which, depend upon it, sometimes she will, then look round on thousands more wretched than thyself, and who, perhaps, did less deserve to be so, and be content. Content is better than fine gold.

Wish not for death, it is a sin; but scorn to fear it, and be prepared to meet it every hour, since come it must, while the good smiles at its sting and defies its point. Beware of passion and cruelty; but rejoice in being-good natured, not only to man, but to the meanest insect; that is, to the whole creation without exception; detest to hurt

them but for thy food or thy defence. To be cruel is the portion of the coward, while bravery and humanity go hand-in-hand, and please God.

Obeys with temper, and even pleasure, those set over thee; since, without knowing how to be obedient, none know how to command.

Now, my dear boy, love Mrs. Stedman and her little children, from your heart, if ever you had a real love for your dear father, who requests it of you. She has most tenderly proved a help in thy infant state; and while thou art a brother to her helpless little ones, prove thyself, also, a parent and a guardian, by constant kindness, and a proper conduct. Let that good sense with which heaven has been pleased to befriend thee, ever promote peace and harmony in my dear family; then shall the blessing of Almighty God overspread you and them, and we, together with your beloved mother, my dear Johanna, have a chance once more to meet where, in the presence of our heavenly Benefactor, our joy and happiness shall be eternal and complete; which is the ardent wish, the sincere prayer, and only hope of your once-loving father, thy tender parent, who, my dear child, when you read this, shall be no more, and rest with an affectionate heart to all eternity.

Yours, &c.

P.S. Let not your grief for my decease overcome you; let your tears flow, my dear, with manly moderation, and trust that I am happy.

From a Gentleman to his Friend, declining an Invitation.

August 12th, 18—.

My dear Sir—Indispensable business will take me from home for four or five days, consequently

I am obliged most reluctantly to decline your polite invitation for Saturday next.

Mrs. Johnstone unites with me in affectionate regard to your wife. In great haste, but with great truth, I have the pleasure to subscribe myself,

Your sincere friend.

From a Gentleman in New York to his Friend in the Country.

July 10th, 18—.

Dear Sir—I am extremely fearful that you consider me neglectful of your very handsome letter and kind present. In that letter you state, that “a servant will call for a reply”—a reply has remained on my desk ever since.

I presume you are, by this time, about to return to town, and ready to enter upon the avocations of the winter, I trust with health and spirits. Mrs. Plane, too, I hope, participates with you in both.

Allow me to repeat my grateful thanks for your kind attention, and be assured that it will afford me much pleasure in being honoured with your friendship.

My family are still out of town, and, I believe, will be so till November; after that period, when we get a little settled, I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you and Mrs. Plane.

And believe me to be, sir,

Yours, very sincerely.

From an Elderly Gentleman to his Young Friend, as a Testimonial.

May 7th, 18—.

Dear George—I am sorry to hear the Albion had sailed before you arrived at New York, and

consequently, that you were disappointed of a situation on board that ship. I trust, however, it will not be long before something else, equally desirable, will be procured for you. The education you have received qualifies you to make yourself useful in most situations, and I am inclined to think your not going to Cambridge may prove an advantage to you.

The expenses of an university education are now become so very great, and there is so little chance of obtaining employment without very powerful interest, that I think your friends have done very wisely in sending you out into the world, and letting you seek your fortune by your own exertions.

Should it please God to preserve your life, your success will, under the Divine Providence, in a great measure, depend upon your own good conduct; and you may, if you behave in the manner I flatter myself you will, look forward to the time when it will be in your power to act as a father to your little brothers and sisters, and to return to your parents those numberless obligations they have conferred upon you; nothing, I am sure, would give you greater satisfaction.

Should any opportunity occur in which I can be of service to you, I shall embrace it with pleasure.

Wishing you every success,
I am, your sincere friend.

*From a Person wishing to obtain a situation in a
Public Office.*

October 13th, 18—.

Sir—It is with great reluctance, I assure you, that I take the liberty of addressing you without

the necessary letter of introduction generally expected on such an occasion; but permit me to state, that a few weeks since, I received a letter from Mr. —, of —, which, I trust, will supply that deficiency.

My circumstances, sir, have been for some years very precarious, and I find my health much impaired by protracted anxiety, and frequent difficulties; and my present situation being truly trying, I have presumed to solicit your kind condescension, to grant me a letter to one of the gentlemen directors of —, for some situation in their service: should the emolument be ever so trifling, provided the situation be permanent, it would be of the utmost service, and afford me that peace of mind I so ardently crave.

My education has been liberal, and I can procure most respectable testimonials as to character.

Entreating your favourable consideration of my letter,

I remain, sir,

With respect, yours.

From a Young Gentleman to his Friend commanding a Regiment.

October 10th, 18—.

Dear Sir—Although possessed of a sufficiency to live independent of any employment, I cannot reconcile myself to be idle; I shall, therefore, feel myself particularly obliged, if you can procure me a commission in your regiment, being anxious to enter on a military line of life. Trusting that you will excuse this application, and favour me with an early answer,

I am, dear sir,

Your obedient and obliged servant.

The Answer.

October 12th, 18—.

My young Friend—I have to-day been favoured with your letter, and I would most willingly comply with your request, had I not at this moment my regiment quite full of officers, and several young gentlemen on my list, ready to receive such commissions as may chance to fall vacant during the spring

I am, sir,

Yours very truly.

Another Answer.

October 14th, 18—.

My dear Sir—I hasten to answer the letter with which you favoured me, and am truly happy that it is in my power to comply with your request, a lieutenancy being now vacant in the regiment I have the honour to command, for which you shall, in a few days, receive a commission.

I am, dear sir,

Yours truly.

From a Gentleman to his Friend, after an unfortunate difference with another.

December 5th, 18—.

Dear Sir—I should have done myself the pleasure of replying to your polite letter yesterday, to thank you for your ready compliance with my request, but have been so much engaged with company coming unawares upon me, that I was unable to do so sooner. I regret equally with yourself

the *fracas* that has taken place, particularly situated as the person you allude to and myself have been, which ought to have rendered such an occurrence impossible. I feel much obliged by your kind attention, but, as you reside in the same house with the person above mentioned, I lament to say, I do not at present see any prospect of our meeting, except by accident.

I am, dear sir,

Yours, most faithfully.

From a Gentleman abroad, to his Wife in Philadelphia.

May 2d, 18—.

My beloved Jane—Ever anxious to correspond with you, the beloved of my soul, I most pleasantly embrace an opportunity which now presents itself of sending you a letter.

Every thing goes on with me as agreeably and prosperous as I can reasonably expect; the only trouble I have is that of being absent from you, whose charming society and tender endearments neither time nor possession can render me willing to relinquish even for one moment. No, my dear wife, believe me, each year which has elapsed since the solemn rites of religion consecrated us to each other, has only contributed to render me still more sensible of the treasure I then gained, and of my own exquisite happiness in having such a friend, and such a wife, for whom nothing can ever diminish the ardency of my love.

A few months, I trust, will restore me to your dear arms, never again to be torn from them, having nearly completed the arrangement necessary

to be made respecting my property in this distant part of the world. You may be assured, the fond idea of again seeing you, urges me to use all possible expedition in the transaction of business.

Be careful, my beloved, of your health; remember your Henry's life and happiness depend on yours, with which it is too closely connected to admit of any separation. Render my kindest remembrance to all our mutual friends, and preserve the image of him who adores you, in your heart.

I am, my dear Jane,

Your affectionate and faithful husband.

The Answer.

May 31st, 18—.

My dear Henry—To receive a letter from you, ever conveyed the purest feelings of unaffected happiness to my bosom, even when only separated for a single day; you may, therefore, easily imagine how gratified I was to hear from you, when, for the first time since our happy union, we are so widely apart.

Believe me, my Henry, that during the period of your absence, I cannot partake of any real enjoyment, because all I do is alloyed by the knowledge that my heart's beloved cannot enjoy it with me.

My whole employment is now to look forward to that happy hour when we shall be reunited, in doing which I draw the most delightful scenes of future bliss.

Indeed, my affectionate, my dear husband, I can never sufficiently express, even by the utmost tenderness, the high and grateful sense I entertain of your unwearied kindness and constant love to me.

Were I to live an age, and each moment of my life devoted to your service, it would not suffice. I sincerely hope, that your business will soon permit you to return to the affectionate arms of your anxious wife; for I feel perfectly assured, that nothing but the most urgent business will possess the power of detaining you one moment from the society of her who lives but in your presence, and whose heaven is the enjoyment of your smiles.

The kind caution you give me of being careful of my health, I must retort upon you. For my beloved Henry, were I to lose you, Death, by taking me, would prevent you from reposing in a solitary grave. No, my dearest husband, it would not be possible for me to survive your loss. With affectionate blessings,

I am, my dear husband,

Your own devoted wife.

From a Brother to his Sister at Boarding School.

October 12th, 18—.

My dear Louisa—I embrace an opportunity which presents itself, of sending you a letter, free of expense, fearing you would otherwise imagine that I had forgotten you.

I am truly rejoiced to learn from our dear father, that you are rapidly improving; continue to do so, my beloved girl, as it will evince your own merits, and likewise prove to our dear parents how truly anxious you are to please them; independent of which, you will discover, hereafter, that your present acquirements will command for you the respect and love of all—an ample reward for your present labours. I have sent you, my dear girl, as

a trivial token of my regard, a parcel of books and inclosed you will find a one-pound note, for you to dispose of in any manner you think proper

Your affectionate parents, and my wife and children, unite in love to you; and hoping soon to receive a letter from you, I am, my love,

Your truly affectionate brother.

The Sister's Answer.

October 15th, 18—.

My dear Brother—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your affectionate letter, and to return you my warmest thanks for your kind present.

I hope you will always find that I pay a proper degree of respect to the advice you are so frequently good enough to give me, and that my conduct will evidence the truth of this assertion. For, believe me, I shall always feel truly gratified in having merited the good opinion of my dear brother.

With respect to my improvement, I flatter myself neither my beloved parents, nor yourself, will have any great reason to find fault; at least I am happy to say that my dear and respected governess gives me full credit for as much improvement as she can expect.

Make my dutiful remembrances to our excellent parents, and my affectionate regards to your dear wife and children. With the hope that you will shortly favour me with another letter, I subscribe myself,

My ever dear brother,

Your truly affectionate sister

From a Gentleman to his Friend, containing an Invitation.

July 2d, 18—.

My dear Friend—Being now settled at my country residence for the summer, I lose no time in soliciting the pleasure of your company, together with that of your family, and trust that you will make it convenient to pass a month or six weeks with us in our rural retirement. I believe that you are too well aware of my friendship, to doubt every thing will be done to render your stay with us agreeable.

My wife desires me to inform you, that unless you comply with this our mutual request, your name will be erased from her good books.

Pray favour us with an early answer, and let it be such as we expect.

With best wishes to yourself and family, believe me to be, my dear sir,

Very faithfully, yours.

The Answer, accepting the Invitation.

July 4th, 18—.

My dear Sir—Your very friendly and polite invitation demands my immediate attention. You may be assured, that I never willingly resign the pleasure of enjoying your society; and, on the present occasion, I am extremely happy to say, that I have nothing to prevent my acceptance of your very kind offer. You may, therefore, expect me and my family in the course of ten days. I hope we shall be able to prevail on you and your good lady to return with us.

Requesting you to be assured, that I am truly sensible of your repeated acts of friendly attention

towards me, I am, dear sir, with best wishes for your health and happiness (in which my wife unites) very affectionately,

Yours truly.

Another Answer, containing an Excuse.

July 5th, 18—.

My worthy Friend—I am truly obliged to you for your very friendly invitation, and sincerely lament that the pressure of my business prevents me at present from complying with it; though I hope this will not induce your amiable lady to erase my name from her good books, especially as it is no fault of mine, my inclination being decidedly in favour of the visit. I shall, however, embrace the earliest opportunity of passing a week with you, when the hurry of business is a little got over; when, I trust, my welcome will not be the less cordial for the present delay.

My family unite with me in the kindest remembrances to you all; and I subscribe myself, dear sir, with great truth,

Your obliged friend and humble servant.

From a Gentleman to his Friend, requesting his Influence in procuring a Situation for his Son.

February 9th, 18—.

My dear Sir—'The friendly intercourse which has so long subsisted between us, induces me to make an application to you respecting my son, who has also the honour of your acquaintance. I do this the more readily, from never having previously trespassed upon your kindness, and, according to all human probability, I shall never again have to tax your friendship.

Fortune has thrown us into very different spheres of life; to you she has given wealth and influence, whilst on me she has bestowed a small business in a country town, just sufficient to support the character of a gentleman, and to educate my child in a decent manner, but not to lay by a fortune for him. Thus circumstanced, as he is now arrived at years of maturity, I trust you will excuse my natural wish to provide for him before I depart from this transitory vale of existence.

William is desirous to procure a clerkship in some compting room, from its presenting the most pleasing prospect of speedy advancement.

Will you, therefore, my dear sir, exert your interest upon this occasion in favour of my only son, who, in my candid opinion, is every way calculated to fill the situation he desires, and who, without your assistance, can never hope to attain it. Resting the event totally upon you, and not in the least doubting your friendship, whatever the event may be, I shall ever remain,

Your very faithful
and obliged friend

The Answer.

February 12th, 18—.

My dear Sir—I was favoured with your letter yesterday, and to remove all anxiety from your mind, I hasten to answer it.

I trust I need not make any professions of friendship to one so intimately acquainted with me as yourself, towards whom I bear the warmest esteem and respect. Be assured, my worthy friend, I shall feel the highest degree of pleasure in being able to

serve you, or in any manner to promote your interests.

Your son's merits would have induced me to serve him, independent of my regard for his father; and I am truly happy to say, that I have no doubt but that his wishes will be gratified.

In a few days, I expect to have the pleasure of transmitting your son his appointment, and I beg you will present him with the inclosed bill, as a present from his godfather, to assist him in fitting out.

With best wishes to yourself, your amiable wife and family, believe me, my dear friend, to be ever most faithfully and affectionately,

Yours.

From a Gentleman, congratulating his Friend on his Marriage with an amiable Young Lady.

February 28th, 18—.

My dear Friend—I trust you will devote a few moments from the pleasures with which you are now surrounded, to the perusal of an epistle from an old and faithful friend, conveying his hearty congratulations on your marriage. May you, my dearest friend, and your charming bride, live many years to enjoy that genuine felicity attendant on the conjugal state, when it is entered upon from proper motives. May you live to experience a numerous offspring blooming around you, by whose virtues the evening of your days shall be rendered equally happy with the present joyous period. Adieu, my valued friend; make my best wishes acceptable to Mrs. B——, and be assured no person rejoices more fervently at your present happiness, than your

Very faithful and affectionate friend.

From a Widow Lady to a Female Relation, in behalf of her Daughters.

November 25th, 18—

My dear Madam—I doubt not but that you have, ere this, been informed of the severe and irreparable loss I have experienced in the death of my beloved husband, with whom I can truly say that I have passed thirty years of uninterrupted happiness. My only remaining consolation is, that I shall (at no distant period, I trust) rejoin his blessed spirit in a better world, and the possession of two lovely young women, the dear and affectionate pledges of our mutual love. It is principally on their account, my dear madam, that I now address you, my beloved husband not having left sufficient behind him to provide for them in the manner I could desire. May I therefore venture to recommend them to your notice, whenever the period of my dissolution arrives? Will you, in that case, become a mother to those young and beloved females, who will then be cast upon the world without parents, without friends, and destitute of experience, with barely enough to shield them from the severity of want? This will, at an early period, be their unhappy destiny, unless you will humanely interpose your kind protection; for the unexpected death of my husband has so completely destroyed my constitution, that I feel convinced my course in this world draws swiftly towards its termination.

Anxious for my daughters' prosperity, I have ventured to make this application, pleading as my only excuse for so doing, the strength of maternal love.

I am, dear madam,

Very affectionately, yours

The Answer.

November 30th, 18—.

My dear Cousin—I received your affectionate letter, and, till I read it, was totally ignorant of the heavy loss you have sustained. Any attempt to console you at present, I am aware, must be in vain; I shall therefore hasten to reply to the contents of your letter.

Suffer no apprehensions respecting your beloved girls to prey upon your spirits, as you may rely upon my being a mother to them during my life, and at my decease they shall be amply provided for.

In consequence of this, I have to request you will lose no time in taking up your residence with me, together with my young relatives; and, that the journey may not be too expensive, I have inclosed you herewith a bank bill, which I beg you will devote to that purpose, and the settlement of your affairs.

I trust my efforts, combined with the tender attentions of your amiable daughters, will preserve you to us for many years, and that you will yet survive to embrace a lovely race of grand-children. Hope for the best, my dear madam. Put your trust in an all-gracious Providence, and believe me to be, with fervent prayers for your happiness,

Very tenderly, yours.

Another Answer.

November 30th, 18—.

Madam—With every desire to comply with your request, I am compelled to give it a negative. My circumstances (though generally supposed affluent) not being such as to warrant my giving a promise of the nature you require.

I would, therefore, recommend you to place your daughters out to some line of business, in which, by industrious exertion, they may earn a subsistence; not that I wish to dictate. Should you, however, do so, I shall have no objection to assist you with a small sum for that purpose.

I am, madam,

Your humble servant.

Reply to a letter, begging a favour, in the negative.

October 20th, 18—.

Dear Sir—Doubtless you have ere this thought and spoke of me very harshly, because you have not received the answer to your letter you might possibly have anticipated; I should have written before, but I have not had an opportunity. The favour you require of me, cannot, I think, afford you that assistance you speculate upon; consider that what you propose is an undertaking of some magnitude, and how it is possible for you to succeed with such slender assistance, I cannot possibly imagine; in fact, the means and plan do not appear consistent. I must therefore decline, as I see no probability of bettering your situation by it; for it follows, as a natural consequence, that before you could duly apply it, in order to reap a lasting benefit, the sum must be gone to satisfy certain necessitous demands. I hope you will forgive me for writing this letter, so ill adapted to your views, and remain,

Dear sir

Yours obediently.

From a Poor Man to his Daughter, just entered into service.

October 17th, 18—.

My dear Mary—Having now commenced the arduous undertaking of procuring a livelihood for yourself, by your own industrious exertions, I cannot better discharge my duty than by giving you such humble advice as I am competent to.

In the first place, carefully avoid all symptoms of impatience, which will invariably make your employers enemies; to do this, remember that it is your duty to submit to your employers, however harsh their commands may appear.

Be strictly attentive to cleanliness and industry, otherwise you will never preserve any place long, which alone will be sufficient to ruin your character.

Keep as much as possible at home, as when a servant ranges abroad it invariably produces anger from her mistress, exclusive of which, it renders her discontented with that station which it has pleased the Almighty Disposer of all things to allot to her.

Endeavour, by the most scrupulous attention and willing alacrity, to prevent even the wishes of your employers. This will insure you their love and protection; a constant desire to please, being always sure of success.

Should there be any children in the family you may serve, treat them with the greatest tenderness, and with proper respect, for it may so happen, that in the course of life those very children may become your employers.

If there are male servants in the family, treat them with attentive kindness, but on no account suffer them to take any improper liberties.

Above all, be honest. It is a solemn duty you owe to those who intrust you with their property; and remember, that you will be equally culpable in defrauding them of a single cent, as you would in robbing them of a thousand dollars. One breach of honesty will ruin your character for ever, break the fond heart of your aged parents, and probably conduct you to an ignominious death!

Finally, my dear child, never neglect the sacred duties of religion, a sure confidence in which can alone support you under the sorrows of this transitory life, and render you triumphant over the terrors of death. Accept, my dear girl, the prayers and blessings of

Your truly affectionate father.

From a Father to his Son, an Apprentice.

November 22d, 18—.

Dear George—As you are now become a member of another family, I shall call your attention to a few hints calculated for your benefit.

In the first place, suffer me to recommend a strict attention to the duties of your office; you owe it to your master, and more particularly so to yourself, otherwise you will never gain a proper knowledge of that business in which you are to procure your future support. Be in all things submissive to your master, who, from his friendship for me, will, I am convinced, do his utmost to serve and instruct you. Remember that he now fills my place, and is equally entitled to your obedience, and also to your affection.

Secondly, religion being the only foundation on which the practice of all virtue can securely rest, let me entreat that you will never, for a moment,

neglect its solemn duties, a proper sense of which will elevate you above the troubles of this transitory life; and will finally conduct you to another and a better world.

Thirdly, be honest. Remember this sacred and truly important precept is one of the immediate commands of God. The smallest breach of which will ruin you for ever, and bring the gray hairs of your unfortunate parent with sorrow to the grave.

Finally, be cleanly in your person, industrious in your habits, and obliging to all; by so doing, you will be generally respected, and become an honour to yourself, at the same time that you are a comfort to your friends. You will therefore, I am confident, my dear boy, pay a proper attention to the few hints I have thus given you; peruse them daily, and when you do so, think upon the writer, whose heart dictated them from an ardent desire of promoting your happiness.

I am, my dear boy,

Your affectionate father.

The Answer.

November 25th, 18—.

My dear Father—In reply to your excellent letter, I can never sufficiently testify my gratitude; but, as the best method of doing so, will anxiously endeavour to follow the advice contained in it, for, be assured, my greatest pride consists in deserving your approbation.

I am greatly pleased with my situation, and trust I shall improve as rapidly in the business as you can expect.

Every succeeding day gives me additional proofs of my worthy master's kindness towards me, and his friendship for you.

Pray present my affectionate duty to my dear mother, and excuse the shortness of this letter, my time being so actively engaged, that I really cannot at present say as much as my heart desires.

I am, my dear father,

Your grateful son.

From an Apprentice to an Offended Master.

September 9th, 18—.

Respected Sir—After the conduct of which I have unfortunately been guilty, I scarcely dare to address you. But from the circumstances of having ever experienced the utmost kindness (which increases my guilt) I am emboldened to throw myself upon your mercy.

Pray, sir, accept my repentance. Restore me again to your confidence and respect; be assured, you shall never have reason to disapprove of my future conduct; and, to convince you of my sincerity, I shall not resort to the promises of what I will do, for which alone gratitude for your unmerited goodness will be my guide.

I am, respected sir, in anxious expectation of your reply.

Your repentant apprentice.

The Answer.

September 10th, 18—.

James—I had determined to receive you no more beneath my roof, but your letter having convinced me that you entertain a proper sense of the impropriety of your behaviour, I am induced to retract my resolution upon this subject, being unwilling to injure youth when any prospect of amendment can be discovered.

You may therefore return, assured that you will be treated with my usual kindness and confidence; neither shall the past be mentioned either by myself or others.

Trusting that you will not, by your future conduct, induce me to repent of the concessions I now make,

I am,

Your affectionate master

Another Answer.

September 10th, 18—

James—Your promise of future amendment comes too late, for you have so frequently deceived me, that I am determined no more to believe your assertions.

You must not, therefore, hope that I will ever more receive you beneath my roof, and you may be assured that I shall, by this post, write a letter to your father, and make him acquainted with your highly improper conduct.

I am,

Your justly offended master.

From a Gentleman to a Friend, announcing an intended Visit.

October 6th, 18—

My dear Friend—It is my intention, if it be agreeable to you, to pay you a visit at an early period in the ensuing spring, when I wish to remain with you for at least five weeks: as, exclusive of the pleasure I shall enjoy in your society, I promise myself some improvement in respect to my health, which a close attention to business has rendered very precarious.

If my proposal should suit your convenience, pray favour me with an early reply, and believe me to be at all times, and under all circumstances,

Dear sir,

Very truly, yours.

The Answer.

October 7th, 18—.

My dear Friend—I received your friendly letter with considerable pleasure, and shall be exceedingly rejoiced at your intended visit. Expecting to see you as early as convenient,

I am, my dear sir,

Very truly yours.

Another Answer.

October 7th, 18—,

My dear Sir—I am truly sorry that a pre-engagement will deprive me of the honour of your intended visit at the period you mention; but if you can conveniently postpone it for two months, I shall then feel myself highly gratified in being favoured with your company.

I am, my dear sir, with best wishes for your health and happiness,

Ever faithfully yours.

From a Gentleman in the Country to his Friend in Town, with a Present of Game.

September 7th, 18—.

My dear Sir—I have transmitted by this evening's mail, a basket of game, containing a hare and two pair of partridges, which I hope you will receive in good order.

Should you, at any period of the sporting season, make it convenient to pass a week with us,

my family will be equally happy with myself to pay you every possible attention; and I will undertake to procure you some excellent sport.

Mrs. Jones unites with me in best wishes, and believe me, my dear friend, to be

Very faithfully yours.

The Answer.

September 9th, 18—.

My dear Friend—I have, with many thanks, to acknowledge the receipt of your kind letter and present; believe me, I do not require those attentions to convince me of the sincerity of your friendship.

I feel myself highly obliged by your invitation, and shall, with great pleasure, avail myself of it in about ten days, being particularly attached to the amusement of shooting.

Pray render my best acknowledgments acceptable to your good lady, and be assured that I am truly sensible of your unwearied attentions.

I am, dear sir,

Your obliged friend.

To a Brother-in-Law, abroad.

Philadelphia, June 4th, 18—.

Dear Brother—I have received your affectionate letter of the 9th ult. which contains an acknowledgment of the receipt of the \$10, I remitted to you in consideration of the marriage of my niece, being my mite towards the necessary expenses of the happy union. I wish it had been in my power to have advanced a greater sum; but I do assure you, business has been, for such a length of time, much stagnated, particularly within the last year, that it is with difficulty we make a comfortable living.

I was much gratified, as well as our dear aged mother, to find from your letter that your amiable wife has recovered from the complaint with which she has been so long afflicted; as also, that your youngest daughter is again restored to health. You will rejoice with me, to hear that our dear mother, notwithstanding her very great age, enjoys excellent health.

I trust, before this arrives, you will have had some news from your son George, which I hope will prove gratifying to you. I am particularly anxious to hear of his welfare, knowing that he is a most deserving young man; when you write to him again, pray remember me kindly to him.

Your mother desires to be remembered to you; and with best wishes for the health and prosperity of yourself and family,

I remain,

Your sincere friend.

From one Friend to another, stating that he has something to communicate to his advantage.

July 9th, 18—.

‘Dear Sir—I have been so pressed with business, that I could not possibly answer your letter before; but it happens very apropos, as I have a communication to make which may place something very advantageous within your reach. I have particular reasons for not explaining here, but will meet you at the corner of the Park, next Great George street, at three o’clock this afternoon, when you shall receive the information.

You are perfectly welcome to the loan of the books which you will receive this evening, and I

shall feel obliged if you will favour me with "Ivan-hoe" per bearer.

Yours, truly.

From a Lady to her female Friend.

May 2d, 18—.

My dear Laura—As I have never withheld even my most secret thoughts from you, I cannot avoid informing you, that since my last letter, I have received an offer of marriage from Mr. Dawson. This, you will perhaps say, has been long expected. True, my dear girl, but it is not, therefore, the less important; especially as my lover is very ardent in his professions, and my heart, could he discover its inmost feelings, is no less repugnant to delay than his own. However, my dear girl, to confess the truth, I will inform you that I received the offer of his hand with all that rapture which derives its origin from pure love, and accepted with that candour, which I sincerely trust, I shall never (even for a moment) lose sight of. Yes, my beloved friend, the most important action of your friend's life, on which all her future felicity or misery depends, is finally determined upon; and on Wednesday next, I am pledged to become the wife of the only man I ever loved. Agreeably, therefore, to a long-standing promise, I shall expect that you will make it convenient to attend as my bride-maid.

And believe me to be, my dear girl,

Ever faithfully

Your affectionate friend.

The Answer.

May 3d, 18—.

My dear Laura—The fresh proof you have given me of your friendship and confidence, would, if any

thing could do so, increase that friendly interest I have ever felt in all which concerned you. However, though I have ten thousand things to say, I shall reserve the whole till we meet.

I shall certainly do myself the pleasure of attending upon you in an official capacity on your wedding-day, when you may expect that I design to have my laugh out, though believe me, without any joke to be

Yours ever, most faithfully.

To a Lady refusing a Favour.

March 11th, 18—.

Dear Madam—It is very painful to me to be under the necessity of replying to your letter of yesterday's date, as I cannot at the same time, render you the assistance you require. Had it been in my power, I should have instantly complied, as I should be happy, at all times, if possible, to anticipate your wishes; I trust, therefore, you will forgive me these lines, and believe me to be, (although I do not, in the present instance, prove it,)

Your sincere friend.

*From an Eminent Literary Character to a Child,
the Daughter of a Friend.*

Dearest Miss Susy—When you favoured me with your letter, you seemed to be in want of materials to fill it, having met with no great adventures, either of peril or delight, nor done nor suffered any thing out of the common course of life.

When you have lived longer, and considered more, you will find the common course of life very fertile of observation and reflection. Upon the common course of life must our thoughts and our con-

versation be generally employed. Our general course of life must denominate us wise or foolish ; happy or miserable : if it is well regulated, we pass on prosperously and smoothly ; as it is neglected, we live in embarrassment, perplexity, and uneasiness.

Your time, my love, passes, I suppose, in devotion, reading, work, and company. Of your devotions, in which I earnestly advise you to be very punctual, you may not perhaps think it proper to give me an account ; and of work, unless I understood it better, it will be of no great use to say much ; but books and company will always supply you with materials for your letters to me, as I shall always be pleased to know what you are reading, and with what you are pleased ; and shall take great delight in knowing what impressions new modes or new characters make upon you, and to observe with what attention you distinguish the tempers, dispositions, and abilities of your companions.

A letter may be always made out of the books of the morning or talk of the evening ; and any letters from you, my dearest, will be welcome to your, &c.

From an Eminent Poet to a Female Relative.

July 12th, 18—.

My dear Cousin—you are very good to me, and if you will only continue to write at such intervals as you find convenient, I shall receive all that pleasure, which I proposed to myself from our correspondence. I desire no more than that you would never drop me for any length of time together, for I shall then think you only write because some-

thing happened to put you in mind of me, or for some other reason equally mortifying. I am not however so unreasonable as to expect you should perform this act of friendship so frequently as myself; for you live in the world swarming with engagements, and my hours are almost all my own. You must every day be employed in doing what is expected from you by a thousand others, and I have nothing to do but what is most agreeable to myself.

Your mentioning Newton's Treatise on the Prophecies, brings to my mind an anecdote of Dr. Young, who you know died lately at Welwyn. Dr. Cotton, who was intimate with him, paid him a visit about a fortnight before he was seized with his last illness. The old man was then in perfect health; the antiquity of his person, the gravity of his utterance, and the earnestness with which he discoursed about religion, gave him, in the Doctor's eye, the appearance of a prophet. They had been delivering their sentiments upon the book of Newton, when Young closed the conference thus:—"My friend, there are two considerations upon which my faith in Christ is built as upon a rock: the fall of man, the redemption of man, and the resurrection of man, the three cardinal articles of our religion, are such as human ingenuity could never have invented, therefore they must be divine. The other argument is this—If the prophecies have been fulfilled (of which there is abundant demonstration), the Scripture must be the word of God; and if the Scripture is the word of God, Christianity must be true."

This treatise on the Prophecies serves a double purpose: it not only proves the truth of religion, in a manner that never had been; nor ever can be

controverted; but it proves likewise, that the Roman Catholic is the apostate and anti-christian church, so frequently foretold both in the Old and New Testaments. Indeed so fatally connected is the refutation of Popery with the truth of Christianity, when the latter is evinced by the completion of the prophecies, that in proportion as light is thrown upon the one, the deformities and errors of the other are more plainly exhibited. But I leave you to the book itself: there are parts of it which may possibly afford you less entertainment than the rest, because you have never been a school-boy: but in the main it is so interesting, and you are so fond of that which is so, that I am sure you will like it.

My dear cousin,—how happy am I in having a friend, to whom I can open my heart upon these subjects! I have many intimates in the world, and have had many more than I shall have hereafter, to whom a long letter, upon these most important articles, would appear tiresome at least, if not impertinent. But I am not afraid of meeting with that reception from you, who have never yet made it your interest, that there should be no truth in the word of God. May this everlasting truth be your comfort while you live, and attend you with peace and joy in your last moments! I love you too well not to make this a part of my prayers; and when I remember my friends on these occasions, there is no likelihood that you can be forgotten. Yours, ever.

P. S.—*Cambridge*.—I add this postscript at my brother's rooms. He desires to be remembered to you, and if you are in town about a fortnight hence, when he proposes to be there himself, will take a breakfast with you.

From the Same to the Same.

September 14th, 18--.

My dear cousin—The longer I live here, the better I like the place, and the people who belong to it. I am upon very good terms with no less than five families, besides two or three odd scrambling fellows like myself. The last acquaintance I made here is with the race of the Unwins, consisting of father and mother, son and daughter, the most comfortable, social folks you ever knew. The son is about twenty-one years of age, one of the most unreserved and amiable young men I ever conversed with. He is not yet arrived at that time of life, when suspicion recommends itself to us in the form of wisdom, and sets every thing, but our own dear selves, at an immeasurable distance from our esteem and confidence. Consequently he is known almost as soon as seen; and having nothing in his heart that makes it necessary for him to keep it barred and bolted, opens it to the perusal even of a stranger.—The father is a clergyman, and the son is designed for orders. The design, however, is quite his own, proceeding merely from his being, and having always been, sincere in his belief and love of the Gospel. Another acquaintance I have lately made, is with a Mr. Nicholson, a North-country divine, very poor, but very good, and very happy. He reads prayers here twice a day, all the year round, and travels on foot to serve two churches every Sunday through the year, his journey out and home again being sixteen miles. I supped with him last night. He gave me bread and cheese, and a black jug of ale of his own brewing, and doubtless brewed by his own hands. An-

other of my acquaintance is Mr. —, a thin, tall, old man, and as good as he is thin. He drinks nothing but water, and eats no flesh, partly (I believe) from a religious scruple (for he is very religious), and partly in the spirit of a valetudinarian. He is to be met with every morning of his life, at about six o'clock, at a fountain of very fine water, about a mile from the town, which is reckoned extremely like the Bristol spring. Being both early risers, and the only early walkers in the place, we soon became acquainted. His great piety can be equalled by nothing, but his great regularity; for he is the most perfect time-piece in the world. I have received a visit likewise from Mr. —. He is very much a gentleman, well-read, and sensible. I am persuaded, in short, that if I had had the choice of all England where to fix my abode, I could not have chosen better for myself, and most likely I should not have chosen so well.

You say, you hope it is not necessary for salvation to undergo the same afflictions that I have undergone.—No! my dear cousin, God deals with his children as a merciful father; he does not, as he himself tells us, afflict willingly the sons of men. Doubtless there are many who, having been placed, by his good providence, out of the reach of any great evil, and the influence of bad example, have, from their very infancy, been partakers of the grace of his Holy Spirit, in such a manner as never to have allowed themselves in any grievous offence against him. May you love him more and more, day by day; as every day, while you think upon him, you will find him more worthy of your love: and may you be finally accepted by him for his sake, whose intercession for all his faithful servants cannot but prevail! Yours ever.

From the Same to the Same.

October 10th, 18—.

My dear Cousin—I should grumble at your long silence, if I did not know, that one may love one's friends very well, though one is not always in a humour to write to them. Besides, I have the satisfaction of being perfectly sure, that you have at least twenty times recollected the debt you owe me, and as often resolved to pay it: and perhaps, while you remain indebted to me, you think of me twice as often as you would do if the account was clear. These are the reflections with which I comfort myself under the affliction of not hearing from you: my temper does not incline me to jealousy, and if it did, I should set all right by having recourse to what I have already received from you.

I thank God for your friendship, and for every friend I have; for all the pleasing circumstances here, for my health of body, and perfect serenity of mind. To recollect the past, and compare it with the present, is all I have need of to fill me with gratitude; and to be grateful is to be happy. Not that I think myself sufficiently thankful, or that I ever shall be so in this life. The warmest heart perhaps only feels by fits, and is often as insensible as the coldest. This at least is frequently the case with mine, and oftener than it should be. But the mercy that can forgive iniquity, will never be severe to mark our frailties. To that mercy, my dear cousin, I commend you, with earnest wishes for your welfare, and remain your ever affectionate.

*From an Eminent English Orientalist to his Friend
Lord ———.*

April 27th, 18—.

Your kind letter found me on board the Crocodile: I should have been very unhappy had it missed me, since I have long habituated myself to set the highest value on every word you speak, and every line you write. Of the two inclosed letters to our friend, Impey and Chambers, I will take the greatest care, and will punctually follow your directions as to the first of them. My departure was sudden indeed; but the Admiralty were so anxious for the sailing of this frigate, and their orders were so peremptory, that it was impossible to wait for any thing but a breeze. Our voyage has hitherto been tolerably pleasant, and, since we left the Channel, very quick. We begin to see albicores about the ship, and to perceive an agreeable change of climate. Our days, though short, give me ample time for study, recreation, and exercise; but my joy and delight proceed from the surprising health and spirits of Anna Maria, who joins me in affectionate remembrance to lady Ashburton. As to you, my dear lord, we consider you as the spring and fountain of our happiness, as the author and parent (a Roman would have added, what the coldness of our northern language will hardly admit, the *god*) of our fortunes. It is possible indeed, that by incessant labour and irksome attendance at the bar, I might in due time have attained all that my very limited ambition could aspire to; but in no other station than that which I owe to your friendship, could I have gratified at once my boundless curiosity concerning the people of the East, continued the exercise of my profession, in

which I sincerely delight, and enjoyed at the same time the comforts of domestic life. The grand jury of Denbighshire have found, I understand, the bill against the dean of St. Asaph, for publishing my dialogue; but as an indictment for a theological essay on government was, I believe, never before known, I have no apprehension for the consequences. As to the doctrines in the tract, though I shall certainly not preach them to the Indians, who must and will be governed by absolute power, yet I shall go through life with a persuasion, that they are just and rational; that substantial freedom is both the daughter and parent of virtue; and that virtue is the only source of public and private felicity. Farewell.

From the Same to another Friend.

March 10th, 18—.

You would readily excuse my delay in answering your obliging letter, if you could form an idea of the incessant hurry and confusion, in which I have been kept ever since my arrival in Bengal, by necessary business or necessary formalities, and by the difficulty of settling myself to my mind, in a country so different from that which I have left. I am indeed, at best, but a bad correspondent; for I never write by candle-light; and find so much Arabic or Persian to read, that all my leisure in a morning is hardly sufficient for a thousandth part of the reading that would be highly agreeable and useful to me; and as I purpose to spend the long vacation up the country, I wish to be a match in conversation with the learned natives, whom I may happen to meet.

I rejoice that you are so near, but lament that you are not nearer; and am not without hope, that you may one day be tempted to visit Bengal, where I flatter myself you will give me as much of your company as possible.

Many thanks for your kind hints in regard to my health. As to me, I do not expect, as long as I stay in India, to be free from a bad digestion, the morbus literatorum, for which there is hardly any remedy, but abstinence from too much food, literary and culinary. I rise before the sun, and bathe after a gentle ride; my diet is light and sparing, and I go early to rest; yet the activity of my mind is too strong for my constitution, though naturally not infirm, and I must be satisfied with a valetudinarian state of health. If you should meet with any curiosities on the coast, either in your botanical rambles or in reading, and will communicate them to our society, lately instituted for inquiring into the history, civil and natural, the antiquities, arts, and sciences, and literature of Asia, we shall give you our hearty thanks. There is an Abyssinian here, who knew Mr. Bruce, at Gwender. I have examined him, and he confirms Bruce's account. Every day supplies me with something new in Oriental learning; and if I were to stay here half a century, I should be continually amused.

From the Same to the Same.

April 13, 18—.

* * * * *

I am discouraged from writing to you as copiously as I wish, by the fear that my letter may never reach you. I inclose however a hymn to the

Indian Cupid, which is here said to be the only correct specimen of Hindu mythology that has appeared ; it is certainly new, and quite original, except the form of the stanza, which is Milton's. I add the character of lord Ashburton, which my zeal for his fame prompted me to publish.

* * * * *

Had I dreamt that the dialogue would have made such a stir, I should certainly have taken more pains with it. I will never cease to avow and justify the doctrine comprised in it. I meant it merely as an imitation of one of Plato's, where a boy, wholly ignorant of geometry, is made by a few simple questions to demonstrate a proposition ; and I intended to inculcate, that the principles of government were so obvious and intelligible, that a clown might be brought to understand them. As to raising sedition, I as much thought of raising a church.

My dialogue contains my system, which I have ever avowed, and ever will avow ; but I perfectly agree (and no man of sound intellect can disagree) that such a system is wholly inapplicable to this country, where millions of men are so wedded to inveterate prejudices and habits, that, if liberty could be forced upon them by Britain, it would make them as miserable as the cruellest despotism.

Pray remember me affectionately to all my friends at the bar, whom I have not time to enumerate ; and assure my academical and professional friends, that I will write to them all when I have leisure.

Farewell, &c.

From an American Philosopher of Eminence, to his Little Sister.

January 6th, 17—.

Dear Sister—I am highly pleased with the account Captain Freeman gives me of you. I always judged by your behaviour when a child, that you would make a good, agreeable woman, and you know you were ever my peculiar favourite. I have been thinking what would be a suitable present for me to make, and for you to receive, as I hear you have grown a celebrated beauty. I had almost determined on a tea-table; but when I considered that the character of a good housewife was far preferable to that of being only a pretty gentlewoman, I concluded to send you a *spinning-wheel*, which I hope you will accept as a small token of my sincere love and affection.

Sister, farewell, and remember that modesty, as it makes the most homely virgin amiable and charming, so the want of it infallibly renders the most perfect beauty disagreeable and odious. But when that brightest of female virtues shines among other perfections of body and mind in the same person, it makes the woman more lovely than an angel. Excuse this freedom, and use the same with me.

I am, dear Jenny, your loving brother.

From the Same, to another Sister.

June 19th, 17—.

Dear Sister—Yours of May 26th I received with the melancholy news of the death of sister Davenport, a loss, without doubt, regretted by all that knew her, for she was a good woman. Her friends ought, however, to be comforted that they

have enjoyed her so long, and that she has passed through the world happily, having never had any extraordinary misfortunes or notable affliction, and that she is now secure in rest, in the place provided for the virtuous. I had before heard of the death of your first child, and am pleased that the loss is in some measure made up to you by the birth of a second.

We have had the small-pox here lately, which raged violently while it lasted. There have been about fifty persons inoculated, who all recovered, except a child of the doctor's, upon whom the small-pox appeared within a day or two after the operation, and who is therefore thought to have been certainly infected before. In one family in my neighbourhood there appeared a great mortality. Mr. George Claypole (a descendant of Oliver Cromwell) had, by industry, acquired a great estate, and being in excellent business, a merchant, would probably have doubled it, had he lived according to the common course of years. He died first, suddenly; within a short time died his best negro; then one of his children; then a negro woman; then two children more, buried at the same time; then two more; so that I saw two double burials come out of the house in one week. None were left in the family, but the mother and one child, and both their lives till lately despaired of; so that all the father's wealth, which everybody thought, a little while ago, had heirs enough, and no one would have given sixpence for the reversion, was in a few weeks brought to the greatest probability of being divided among strangers; so uncertain are all human affairs. The dissolution of this family is generally ascribed to an im-

prudent use of quicksilver in the cure of the itch, Mr. Claypole applying it as he thought proper, without consulting a physician for fear of charges; and the small-pox coming upon them at the same time, made their case desperate.

But what gives me the greatest concern, is the account you give me of my sister Holmes's misfortune. I know a cancer in the breast is often thought incurable; yet we have here in town a kind of shell made of some wood, cut at a proper time, by some man of great skill, (as they say,) which has done wonders in that disease among us, being worn for some time on the breast. I am not apt to be superstitiously fond of believing such things, but the instances are so well attested, as sufficiently to convince the most incredulous.

This, if I have interest enough to procure, as I think I have, I will borrow for a time, and send it to you, and hope the doctors you have will at least allow the experiment to be tried, and shall rejoice to hear it has the accustomed effect.

You have mentioned nothing in your letter of our dear parents; but I conclude they are well, because you say nothing to the contrary. I want to hear from sister Douse, and to know of her welfare, as also of my sister Lydia, who I hear is lately married. I intended to have visited you this summer, but printing the paper-money here has hindered me near two months, and our Assembly will sit the 2d of August next, at which time I must not be absent; but I hope to see you this fall.

I am your affectionate brother.

From the Same to the Same.

August 4th, 17—.

Dear Sister—I received your letter, with one for Benny, and one for Mr. Parker, and also two of Benny's letters of complaint, which, as you observe, do not amount to much. I should have had a very bad opinion of him, if he had written to you those accusations of his master, which you mention; because, from long acquaintance with his master, who lived some years in my house, I know him to be a sober, pious, and conscientious man; so that Newport, to whom you seem to have given too much credit, must have wronged Mr. Parker very much in his accounts, and have wronged Benny too, if he says Benny told him such things, for I am confident he never did.

As to the bad attendance afforded him in the small-pox, I believe, if the negro woman* did not do her duty, her master or mistress would, if they had known it, have had that matter mended. But Mrs. Parker was herself, if I am not mistaken, sick at that time, and her child also. And though he gives the woman a bad character in general, all he charges her with in particular, is, that she never brought him what he called for directly, and sometimes not at all. He had the distemper favourably, and yet I suppose was bad enough to be, like other sick people, a little impatient, and perhaps might think a short time long, and sometimes call for things not proper for one in his condition.

As to clothes, I am frequently at New York, and I never saw him unprovided with what was good, decent, and sufficient. I was there no longer ago than March last, and he was then well clothed, and made no complaint to me of any kind.

I heard both his master and mistress call upon him on Sunday morning to get ready to go to meeting, and tell him of his frequently delaying and shuffling till it was too late, and he made not the least objection about clothes. I did not think it any thing extraordinary, that he should be sometimes willing to evade going to meeting, for I believe it is the case with all boys, or almost all. I have brought up four or five myself, and have frequently observed, that if their shoes were bad, they would say nothing of a new pair till Sunday morning, just as the bell rung, when, if you asked them why they did not get ready, the answer was prepared, "I have no shoes," and so of other things, hats and the like; or if they knew of any thing that wanted mending, it was a secret till Sunday morning, and sometimes I believe they would rather tear a little, than be without the excuse.

As to going on petty errands, no boys love it, but all must do it. As soon as they become fit for better business, they naturally get rid of that, for the master's interest comes in to their relief. I make no doubt but Mr. Parker will take another apprentice, as soon as he can meet with a likely one. In the mean time I should be glad if Benny would exercise a little patience. There is a negro woman that does a great many of those errands.

I do not think his going on board the privateer arose from any difference between him and his master, or any ill usage he had received. When boys see prizes brought in, and quantities of money shared among the men, and their gay living, it fills their heads with notions, that half distract them, and put them quite out of conceit with trades, and the dull ways of getting money by working.

This I suppose was Ben's case, the Catherine being just before arrived with three prizes; and that the glory of having taken a privateer of the enemy, for which both officers and men were highly extolled, treated, presented, &c., worked strongly upon his imagination, you will see, by his answer to my letter, is not unlikely. I send it to you inclosed. I wrote him largely on the occasion; and though he might possibly, to excuse that slip to others, complain of his place, you may see he says not a syllable of any such thing to me. My only son, before I permitted him to go to Albany, left my house unknown to us all, and got on board a privateer, from whence I fetched him. No one imagined it was hard usage at home, that made him do this. Every one, that knows me, thinks I am too indulgent a parent, as well as a master.

I shall tire you, perhaps, with the length of this letter; but I am the more particular, in order, if possible, to satisfy your mind about your son's situation. His master has, by a letter this post, desired me to write to him about his staying out at nights, sometimes all night, and refusing to give an account where he spends his time, or in what company. This I had not heard before, though I perceive you have. I do not wonder at his correcting him for that. If he was my own son, I should think his master did not do his duty by him, if he omitted it, for to be sure it is the high road to destruction. And I think the correction very light, and not likely to be very effectual, if the strokes left no marks.

His master says farther, as follows:—"I think I can't charge my conscience with being much short of my duty to him. I shall now desire you, if you have not done it already, to invite him to

lay his complaints before you, that I may know how to remedy them." Thus far the words of his letter, which giving me a fair opening to inquire into the affair, I shall accordingly do it, and I hope settle every thing to all your satisfactions. In the mean time, I have laid by your letters both to Mr. Parker and Benny, and shall not send them till I hear again from you, because I think your appearing to give ear to such groundless stories may give offence, and create a greater misunderstanding, and because I think what you write to Benny, about getting him discharged, may tend to unsettle his mind, and therefore improper at this time.

I have a very good opinion of Benny in the main, and have great hopes of his becoming a worthy man, his faults being only such as are commonly incident to boys of his years, and he has many good qualities, for which I love him. I never knew an apprentice contented with the clothes allowed him by his master, let them be what they would. Jemmy Franklin, when with me, was always dissatisfied and grumbling. When I was last in Boston, his aunt bid him go to a shop and please himself, which the gentleman did, and bought a suit of clothes on my account dearer by one-half than any I ever afforded myself, one suit excepted; which I don't mention by way of complaint of Jemmy, for he and I are good friends, but only to show you the nature of boys.

The letters of Mr. Vanhorne were sent by Mr. Whitfield, under my cover.

I am, with love to brother and all yours, and duty to mother, to whom I have not time now to write, your affectionate brother.

LETTERS OF ADVICE.

From an English Nobleman in Queen Elizabeth's reign, to his Son.

[This quaint and curious letter is inserted rather for the matter than the style. It abounds in piety and practical wisdom; and furnishes many admirable precepts for the conduct of life, which the young men of our own time would do well to respect and reduce to practice.]

I have received two letters from you, one written in Latin, the other in French, which I take in good part, and wish you to exercise that practice of learning often; for that will stand you in most stead, in that profession of life that you are born to live in. And, since this is my first letter that ever I did write to you, I will not, that it will be all empty of some advices, which my natural care of you provoketh me to wish you to follow, as documents to you in this your tender age. Let your first action be, the lifting up of your mind to Almighty God, by hearty prayer, and feelingly digest the words you speak in prayer with continual meditation, and thinking of him to whom you pray, and of the manner for which you pray. And use this as an ordinary, at, and at an ordinary hour. Whereby the time itself will put you in remembrance to do that which you are accustomed to do. In that time apply your study to such hours as your discreet master doth assign you earnestly; and the time (I know) he will so limit, as shall be both sufficient for your learning, and safe for your health. And mark the sense and the matter of that you read, as well as the words. So shall you both enrich your tongue with words and your wit with matter; and judgment will grow as years groweth

in you. Be humble and obedient to your master, for unless you frame yourself to obey others, yea, and feel in yourself what obedience is, you shall never be able to teach others, how to obey you. Be courteous of gesture, and affable to all men, with diversity of reverence, according to the dignity of the person. There is nothing that winneth so much with so little cost. Use moderate diet, so as, after your meat, you may find your wit fresher, and not duller, and your body more lively, and not more heavy. Seldom drink wine, and yet sometime do, lest being enforced to drink upon the sudden, you should find yourself inflamed. Use exercise of body, but such as is without peril of your joints or bones. It will increase your force, and enlarge your breath. Delight to be cleanly, as well in all parts of your body as in your garments. It shall make you grateful in each company, and otherwise loathsome. Give yourself to be merry, for you degenerate from your father, if you find not yourself most able, in wit and body, to do any thing, when you be most merry; but let your mirth be ever void of all scurrility and biting words to any man, for a wound given by a word is oftentimes harder to be cured, than that which is given with the sword. Be you rather a hearer and bearer away of other men's talk than a beginner or procurer of speech, otherwise you shall be counted to delight to hear yourself speak. If you hear a wise sentence, or an apt phrase, commit it to your memory, with respect of the circumstance, when you shall speak it. Let never oath be heard to come out of your mouth, nor words of ribaldry; detest it in others, so shall custom make to yourself a law against it in yourself. Be modest in each assembly, and rather be rebuked of light fel-

lows, for maiden-like shamefacedness, than of your sad friends for pert boldness. Think upon every word that you will speak, before you utter it, and remember how nature hath rampired up (as it were) the tongue with teeth, lips, yea, and hair without the lips, and all betokening reins, or bridles, for the loose use of that member. Above all things tell no untruth, no not in trifles. The custom of it is naughty; and let it not satisfy you, that, for a time, the hearers take it for a truth, for after it will be known as it is, to your shame; for there cannot be a greater reproach to a gentleman than to be accounted a liar. Study and endeavour yourself to be virtuously occupied. So shall you make such an habit of well doing in you, that you shall not know how to do evil, though you would. Remember, my son, the noble blood you are descended of, by your mother's side; and think, that only by virtuous life and good action you may be an ornament to that illustrious family; and otherwise, through vice and sloth, you shall be counted *labes generis*, one of the greatest curses that can happen to man. Well (my little Philip,) this is enough for me, and too much I fear for you. But if I shall find that this light meal of digestion nourish any thing the weak stomach of your young capacity, I will, as I find the same grow stronger, feed it with tougher food. Your loving father, so long as you live in the fear of God.

From an English Statesman of the Reign of George the Third, to his Nephew.

My dear Child—I am extremely pleased with your translation, now it is writ over fair. It is very close to the sense of the original, and done, in

many places, with much spirit, as well as the numbers not lame, or rough. However, an attention to Mr. Pope's numbers will make you avoid some ill sound and hobbling of the verse, by only transposing a word or two, in many instances. I have, upon reading the eclogue over again, altered the third, fourth, and fifth lines, in order to bring them nearer to the Latin, as well as to render some beauty which is contained in the repetition of words in tender passages; for example, *Nos patriæ fines, et dulcia linquimus arva; Nos patriam fugimus; tu, Tityre, lentus in umbra formosam resonare doces Amaryllida sylvas.* "We leave our native land, these fields so sweet; Our country leave; at ease, in cool retreat, You, Thyrsis, bid the woods fair Daphne's name repeat." I will desire you to write over another copy with this alteration, and also to write *smoaks* in the plural number in the last line but one. You give me great pleasure, my dear child, in the progress you have made. I will recommend to Mr. Leech to carry you quite through Virgil's *Æneid* from beginning to ending. Pray show him this letter, with my service to him, and thanks for his care of you. For English poetry, I recommend Pope's translation of Homer, and Dryden's *Fables* in particular. I am not sure if they are not called *Tales*, instead of *Fables*. Your cousin, whom I am sure you can overtake if you will, has read Virgil's *Æneid* quite through, and much of Horace's *Epistles*. Terence's *Plays* I would also desire Mr. Leech to make you master of. Your cousin has read them all. Go on, my dear, and you will at least equal him. You are so good that I have nothing to wish, but that you may be directed to proper books; and I trust to your spirit, and de-

sire to be praised for things that deserve praise, for the figure you will hereafter make, God bless you, my dear child. Your most affectionate uncle.

From the Same to the Same.

October 12, 18—.

My dear Nephew—As I have been moving about from place to place, your letter reached me here, at Bath, but very lately, after making a considerable circuit to find me. I should have otherwise, my dear child, returned you thanks for the very great pleasure you have given me, long before now. The very good account you give me of your studies, and that delivered in very good Latin, for your time, has filled me with the highest expectation of your future improvements: I see the foundations so well laid, that I do not make the least doubt but you will become a perfect good scholar; and have the pleasure and applause that will attend the several advantages hereafter, in the future course of your life, that you can only acquire now by your emulation and noble labours in the pursuit of learning, and of every acquirement that is to make you superior to other gentlemen. I rejoice to hear that you have begun Homer's Iliad; and have made so great a progress in Virgil. I hope you taste and love those authors particularly. You cannot read them too much; they are not only the two greatest poets, but they contain the finest lessons for your age to imbibe: lessons of honour, courage, disinterestedness, love of truth, command of temper, gentleness of behaviour, humanity, and, in one word, virtue in its true signification. Go on, my dear nephew, and drink as deep as you can

of these divine springs: the pleasure of the draught is equal at least to the prodigious advantages of it to the heart and morals. I hope you will drink them as somebody does in Virgil, of another sort of cup: *Ille impiger hausit spumantem pateram*.

I shall be highly pleased to hear from you, and to know what authors give you most pleasure. I desire my service to Mr. Leech: pray tell him I will write to him soon about your studies.

I am, with the greatest affection, my dear child, your loving uncle.

From the Samè to the Same.

January 12, 17—.

My dear Nephew—Your letter from Cambridge affords me many very sensible pleasures: first, that you are at last in a proper place for study and improvement, instead of losing any more of that most precious thing, time, in London. In the next place, that you seem pleased with the particular society you are placed in, and with the gentleman to whose care and instructions you are committed: and, above all, I applaud the sound, right sense, and love of virtue, which appears through your whole letter. You are already possessed of the true clue to guide you through this dangerous and perplexing part of your life's journey, the years of education; and upon which, the complexion of all the rest of your days will infallibly depend; I say you have the true clue to guide you, in the maxim you lay down in your letter to me; namely, that the use of learning is, to render a man more wise and virtuous; not merely to make him more learned. *Macte tuâ virtute*: Go on, my dear boy, by this golden rule, and you cannot fail to

become every thing your generous heart prompts you to wish to be, and that mine most affectionately wishes for you. There is but one danger in your way; and that is, perhaps, natural enough to your age, the love of pleasure, or the fear of close application and laborious diligence. With the last there is nothing you may not conquer: and the first is sure to conquer and enslave whoever does not strenuously resist the first allurements of it, lest by small indulgences he fall under the yoke of irresistible habit. *Vitanda est improba siren, Desidia*,* I desire may be affixed to the curtains of your bed, and to the walls of your chambers. If you do not rise early, you never can make any progress worth talking of: and another rule is, if you do not set apart your hours of reading, and never suffer yourself or any one else to break in upon them, your days will slip through your hands, unprofitably and frivolously; unpraised by all you wish to please, and really unenjoyable to yourself. Be assured, whatever you take from pleasure, amusements, or indolence, for these first few years of life, will repay you a hundred fold, in the pleasures, honours, and advantages of all the remainder of your days. My heart is so full of the most earnest desire that you should do well, that I find my letter has run into some length, which you will, I know, be so good to excuse. There remains now nothing to trouble you with, but a little plan for the beginning of your studies, which I desire, in a particular manner, may be exactly followed in every tittle. You are to qualify yourself for the part in society to which your birth and estate call you. You are to be a gentleman of such learning

* Shun the accursed siren, Sloth.

and qualifications as may distinguish you in the service of your country hereafter; not a pedant, who reads only to be called learned, instead of considering learning as an instrument only for action. Give me leave therefore, my dear nephew, who have gone before you, to point out to you the dangers in your road; to guard you against such things as I experience my own defects to arise from; and at the same time, if I have had any little successes in the world, to guide you to what I have drawn many helps from. I have not the pleasure of knowing the gentleman who is your tutor, but I dare say he is every way equal to such a charge, which I think no small one. You will communicate this letter to him, and I hope he will be so good to concur with me, as to the course of study I desire you may begin with; and that such books, and such only, as I have pointed out, may be read. They are as follow: Euclid; a Course of Logic; a Course of Experimental Philosophy; Locke's Conduct of the Understanding; his Treatise also on the Understanding; his Treatise on Government, and Letters on Toleration. I desire, for the present, no books of poetry, but Horace and Virgil: of Horace the Odes, but, above all, the Epistles and Ars Poetica. These parts, *nocturnâ versate manu versate diurnâ*.* Tully de Officiis, de Amicitia, de Senectute. His Catilinarian Orations and Philippics. Sallust. At leisure hours, an abridgment of the History of England to be run through, in order to settle in the mind a general chronological order and series of principal events, and succession of kings: proper books of English history, on the true principles of our hap-

* Read night and day.

py constitution, shall be pointed out afterwards. Burnet's History of the Reformation, abridged by himself, to be read with great care. Father Paul on Beneficiary Matters in English. A French master, and only Moliere's Plays to be read with him, or by yourself, till you have gone through them all. Spectators, especially Mr. Addison's papers, to be read very frequently at broken times in your room. I make it my request, that you will forbear drawing totally, while you are at Cambridge; and not meddle with Greek otherwise than to know a little the etymology of words in Latin, or English, or French; nor to meddle with Italian. I hope this little course will soon be run through: I intend it as a general foundation for many things of infinite utility, to come as soon as this is finished.

Believe me, with the truest affection, my dear nephew, ever yours.

Keep this letter, and read it again.

From the Same to the Same.

March 30th, 17—.

My dear Nephew—I am much obliged to you for your kind remembrance and wishes for my health. It is much recovered by the regular fit of gout, of which I am still lame in both feet, and I may hope for better health hereafter in consequence. I have thought it long since we conversed: I waited to be able to give you a better account of my health, and, in part, to leave you time to make advances in your plan of study, of which I am very desirous to hear an account. I desire you will be so good to let me know particularly, if you have gone through the Abridgment of Burnet's

History of the Reformation, and 'Treatise of Father Paul on Benefices; also, how much of Locke you have read. I beg of you not to mix any other English reading with what I recommend to you. I propose to save you much time and trouble, by pointing out to you such books, in succession, as will carry you the shortest way to the things you must know to fit yourself for the business of the world, and give you the clearer knowledge of them, by keeping them unmixed with superfluous, vain, empty trash. Let me hear, my dear child, of your French also; as well as of those studies which are more properly university studies. I cannot tell you better how truly and tenderly I love you, than by telling you I am most solicitously bent on your doing every thing that is right, and laying the foundations of your future happiness and figure in the world, in such a course of improvement, as will not fail to make you a better man, while it makes you a more knowing one.—Do you rise early? I hope you have already made to yourself the habit of doing it; if not, let me conjure you to acquire it. Remember your friend Horace; *Et ni posces ante diem librum cum lumine, si non intendes animum studiis et rebus honestis invidiâ vel amore miser torquebere*.* Adieu. Your ever affectionate uncle.

From the Same to the Same.

Sept. 5th, 17—.

My dear Nephew—I have been a long time without conversing with you, and thanking you for the pleasure of your last letter. You may

* Unless you call for a book and light, unless you apply your mind to studies and honourable affairs, you will be miserably tormented by envy or desire.

possibly be about to return to the seat of learning on the banks of the Cam; but I will not defer discoursing to you on literary matters, till you leave Cornwall, not doubting but you are mindful of the Muses amidst the very savage rocks and moors, and yet more savage natives, of the ancient and respectable duchy. First, with regard to the opinion you desire concerning a common-place book; in general I much disapprove the use of it; it is chiefly intended for persons who mean to be authors, and tends to impair the memory, and to deprive you of a ready, extempore use of your reading, by accustoming the mind to discharge itself of its reading on paper, instead of relying on its natural power of retention, aided and fortified by frequent revisions of its ideas and materials. Some things must be common-placed in order to be of any use; dates, chronological order, and the like; for instance, Nathaniel Bacon ought to be extracted in the best method you can; but in general my advice to you is, not to common-place upon paper, but, as an equivalent to it, to endeavour to range and methodize in your head what you read, and by so doing frequently and habitually to fix matter in the memory. I desired you some time since to read Lord Clarendon's History of the Civil Wars. I have lately read a much honester and more instructive book, of the same period of history; it is the History of the Parliament, by Thomas May, Esq., &c. I will send it to you as soon as you return to Cambridge. If you have not read Burnet's History of his Own Times, I beg you will. I hope your father is well. My love to the girls. Your ever affectionate uncle.

From the Same to the Same.

April 9.

My dear Nephew—I rejoice extremely to hear that your father and the girls are not unentertained in their travels; in the mean time your travels through the paths of literature, arts and sciences, (a road, sometimes set with flowers, and sometimes difficult, laborious, and arduous,) are not only infinitely more profitable in future, but at present, upon the whole, infinitely more delightful. My own travels at present are none of the pleasantest; I am going through a fit of the gout; with much proper pain, and what proper patience I may. *Avis au lecteur*, my sweet boy: “Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth.” Let no excesses lay the foundations of gout and the rest of Pandora’s box; nor any immoralities or vicious courses sow the seeds of a too late and painful repentance. Here ends my sermon, which, I trust, you are not fine gentleman enough, or, in plain English, silly fellow enough, to laugh at. Lady Hester is much yours. Let me hear some account of your intercourse with the Muses; and believe me ever, your truly most affectionate.

From an Eminent Poet to his Friend.

May 6th, 17—.

Dear Robert—

* * * * *

You don’t know how I long to hear how your declamation was received; and “all about it,” as we say in these parts. I hope to see it, when I see its author and pronouncer. Themistocles, no doubt, received due praise from you for his valour and *subtlety*, but I trust you poured down a torrent of eloquent indignation upon the ruling prin-

ciples of his actions, and the motives of his conduct; while you exalted the mild and unassuming virtues of his more amiable rival. The object of Themistocles was the aggrandizement of himself: that of Aristides the welfare and prosperity of the state. The one endeavoured to swell the *glory* of his country; the other to promote its security, external and internal, foreign and domestic. While you estimated the services which Themistocles rendered to the state, in opposition to those of Aristides, you of course remembered, that the former had the largest scope for action, and that he influenced his countrymen to fall into all his plans, while they banished his competitor, not by his superior wisdom or goodness, but by those intrigues and factious artifices which Aristides would have disdained. Themistocles certainly did use *bad* means to a desirable end: and, if we may assume it as an axiom, that Providence will forward the designs of a good, sooner than those of a bad man, whatever inequality of abilities there may be between the two characters, it will follow that—had Athens remained under the guidance of Aristides, it would have been better for her. The difference between Themistocles and Aristides seems to me to be this: That the former was a wise and a *fortunate* man; and that the latter, though he had equal wisdom, had not equal good fortune. We may admire the heroic qualities and the crafty policy of the one, but to the temperate and disinterested patriotism, the good and virtuous dispositions of the other, we can alone give the meed of heart-felt *praise*.

I only mean by this, that we must not infer Themistocles to have been *the better* or *the greater* man, because he rendered more essential services

to the state than Aristides, nor even that his system was the most judicious,—but only that, by decision of character, and by good fortune, his measures succeeded best.

* * * * *

The rules of composition are, in my opinion, very few. If we have a mature acquaintance with our subject, there is little fear of our expressing it as we ought, provided we have had *some little* experience in writing. The first thing to be aimed at is perspicuity. *That* is the great point, which, once attained, will make all other obstacles smooth to us. In order to write perspicuously, we should have a *perfect* knowledge of the topic on which we are about to treat, in all its bearings and dependencies. We should think well, beforehand, what will be the clearest method of conveying the drift of our design. This is similar to what painters call the *massing*, or getting the effect of the more prominent lights and shades by broad dashes of the pencil. When our thesis is well arranged in our mind, and we have predisposed our arguments, reasonings, and illustrations, so as they shall all conduce to the object in view, in regular sequence and gradation, we may sit down and express our ideas in as clear a manner as we can, always using such words as are most suited to our purpose, and, when two modes of expression, equally luminous, present themselves, selecting that which is the most harmonious and elegant.

It sometimes happens that writers, in aiming at perspicuity, over-reach themselves, by employing too many words, and perplex the mind by a multiplicity, of illustrations. This is a very fatal error. Circumlocution seldom conduces to plainness; and you may take it as a maxim, that, when once an

idea is *clearly expressed*, every additional stroke will only confuse the mind, and diminish the effect.

When you have once learned to express yourself with clearness and propriety, you will soon arrive at elegance. Every thing else, in fact, will follow as of course. But I warn you not to invert the order of things, and be paying your addresses to the graces, when you ought to be studying perspicuity. Young writers, in general, are too solicitous to round off their periods, and regulate the cadences of their style. Hence the feeble pleonasms, and idle repetitions, which deform their pages. If you would have your compositions vigorous and masculine in their tone, let every word TELL; and when you detect yourself polishing off a sentence with expletives, regard yourself in exactly the same predicament with a poet, who should eke out the measure of his verses with "titum, titum, tee, sir."

So much for style——

* * * * *

From a Gentleman to his Son.

July 24th, 18—.

Dear Boy—If you have as much pleasure in deserving and receiving praise, as I have in giving it you when you deserve it, this letter will be very agreeable to you; for I write it merely to give you your just commendations for your theme, which I received this morning. The diction, in all the three languages, is better than I could have expected; the English particularly is not inelegant; the thoughts are just and sensible; and the historical examples with which you illustrate them are apt and pertinent. I showed your performance

to some men of letters here, and at the same time told them your age; at both which, considered together, they expressed great satisfaction and some surprise; and said, that if you went on at this rate but for five or six years longer, you will distinguish yourself extremely, and become very considerable; but then, they added, (for I must tell you all,) that they observed many forward boys stop short on a sudden, from giddiness and inattention, and turn out great blockheads at last. I answered for you, that this would not happen to you; for that you were thoroughly sensible of the usefulness and necessity of knowledge; that you knew it could not be acquired without pains and attention; and that you knew too, that the next four or five years were the only time of your life in which you could acquire it. Of this, I must confess, they doubted a little, and desired I would remember to show them some of your exercises a year hence, which I promised I would do: so pray take care to advance, lest what is so much to your honour now, should then prove to your disgrace. *Non progredi est regredi*, is a very true maxim in most things, but is particularly true with regard to learning. I am very glad Mr. Maittaire puts you upon making themes, for that will use you to think; and your writing them in English, as well as in Latin and Greek, will improve you in your own language, and teach you both to write and speak it with purity and elegance, which it is most absolutely necessary to do; for though, indeed, the justness and strength of the thoughts are the most material points, and that words are but the dress of thoughts; yet, as a very handsome man or woman may be disfigured, and rendered even disagreeable, by an awkward, slovenly, and ragged

dress, so good thoughts may lose great part of their beauty, if expressed in low, improper, and inelegant words. People mistake very much, who imagine that they must of course speak their own language well, and that therefore they need not study it, or attend to it: but you will soon find how false this way of reasoning is, if you observe the English spoken by almost all English people who have no learning. Most women, and all the ordinary people in general, speak in open defiance of all grammar, use words that are not English, and murder those that are; and though, indeed, they make themselves understood, they do it so disagreeably, that what they say, seldom makes amends for their manner of saying it. I have this day received a letter from Mr. Maittaire, in which he gives me a better account of you than usual; which pleases me so much that you shall be well rewarded for it when I see you; that will be before it is very long; so you need not write to me any more. Adieu.

As you are now in the way of themes, I send you this to exercise your thoughts upon against I come to town;

Sapere et fari quæ sentiat.

It is an epistle from Horace to Tibullus; if you read the whole epistle, which is a short and easy ode, with Mr. Maittaire, you will see how those words are introduced; then you will consider what are the advantages, and the means of acquiring them. If you can illustrate them by the examples of some who possessed those talents eminently, it will do well. And if you can find out a simile very applicable to the possession or the want of those talents, it will adorn the composition.

From the Same to the Same.

Saturday.

Sir,—The fame of your erudition, and other shining qualifications, having reached to Lord Orrery, he desires me that you might dine with him and his son, Lord Boyle, next Sunday; which I told him you should. By this time I suppose you have heard from him; if you have not, you must, however, go there between two and three to-morrow; and say, that you come to wait upon Lord Boyle, according to his lordship's orders, of which I informed you. As this will deprive me of the honour and pleasure of your company at dinner to-morrow, I will hope for it at breakfast, and shall take care to have your chocolate ready.

Though I need not tell one of your age, experience, and knowledge of the world, how necessary good breeding is, to recommend one to mankind; yet, as your various occupations of Greek and cricket, Latin and pitch-farthing may possibly divert your attention from this object, I take the liberty of reminding you of it, and desiring you to be very well-bred at Lord Orrery's. It is good breeding alone, that can prepossess people in your favour at first sight: more time being necessary to discover greater talents. This good breeding, you know, does not consist in low bows and formal ceremony; but in an easy, civil behaviour. You will take care, therefore, to answer with complaisance, when you are spoken to; to place yourself at the lower end of the table, unless bid to go higher; to drink first to the lady of the house, and next to the master; not to eat awkwardly or dirtily; not to sit when others stand; and to do all this with an air of complaisance, and not with a

grave, sour look, as if you did it all unwillingly. I do not mean a silly, insipid smile, that fools have when they would be civil; but an air of sensible good humour. I hardly know any thing so difficult to attain, or so necessary to possess, as perfect good breeding; which is equally inconsistent with a stiff formality, an impertinent forwardness, and an awkward bashfulness. A little ceremony is often necessary; a certain degree of firmness is absolutely so; and an outward modesty is extremely becoming: the knowledge of the world, and your own observations, must, and alone can, tell you the proper quantities of each.

Mr. Fitzgerald was with me yesterday, and commended you much: go on to deserve commendations, and you will certainly meet with them. Adieu.

From the Same to the Same.

Tuesday.

Dear Boy,—Good breeding is so important an article in life, and so absolutely necessary for you, if you would please and be well received in the world, that I must give you another lecture upon it, and possibly this will not be the last, neither.

I only mentioned in my last, the general rules of common civility, which whoever does not observe, will pass for a bear, and be as unwelcome as one, in company; and there is hardly anybody brutal enough not to answer when they are spoken to, or not to say, sir, my lord, or madam, according to the rank of the people they speak to. But it is not enough not to be rude: you should be extremely civil, and distinguished for your good breeding. —The first principle of this good breeding is, ne-

ver to say any thing you think can be disagreeable to anybody in company ; but, on the contrary, you should endeavour to say what will be agreeable to them, and that in an easy and natural manner, without seeming to study for compliments. There is likewise such a thing as a civil look and a rude look : and you should look civil as well as be so ; for if, while you are saying a civil thing, you look gruff and surly, as most English bumpkins do, nobody will be obliged to you for a civility that seemed to come so unwillingly. If you have occasion to contradict anybody, or to set them right from a mistake, it would be very brutal to say, *That is not so ; I know better ;* or, *You are out ;* but you should say, with a civil look, *I beg your pardon, I believe you mistake ;* or, *If I may take the liberty of contradicting you, I believe it is so and so ;* for, though you may know a thing better than other people, yet it is very shocking to tell them so directly, without something to soften it ; but remember particularly, that whatever you say or do, with ever so civil an intention, a great deal consists in the manner and the look, which must be genteel, easy, and natural, and is easier to be felt than described.

Civility is particularly due to all women ; and remember that no provocation whatsoever can justify any man in not being civil to every woman. and the greatest man in England would justly be reckoned a brute, if he were not civil to the meanest woman. It is due to their sex, and is the only protection they have against the superior strength of ours. I repeat it again to you ; observe the French people, and mind how easily and naturally civil their address is, and how agreeably they insinuate little civilities in their conversation. They

think it so essential, that they call an honest man and a civil man by the same name, of *honnete homme*; and the Romans called civility *humanitas*, as thinking it inseparable from humanity. As nobody can instruct you in good breeding better than your mamma, be sure you mind all she says to you upon that subject: and depend upon it that your reputation and success in the world, will, in a great measure, depend upon the degree of good breeding you are master of. You cannot begin too early to take that turn, in order to make it natural and habitual to you; which it is to very few Englishmen, who, neglecting it while they are young, find out too late, when they are old, how necessary it is, and then cannot get it right. There is hardly a French cook that is not better bred than most Englishmen of quality, and that cannot present himself with more ease, and a better address, in any mixed company. Remember to practise all this; and then, with the learning which I hope you will have, you may arrive at what I reckon almost the perfection of human nature, English knowledge with French good breeding. Adieu.

From the Same to the Same.

November 29, 18—.

Dear Boy,—I have received your last Saturday's performance, with which I am very well satisfied. I know or have heard of no Mr. St. Maurice here; and young Pain, whom I have made an ensign, was here upon the spot, as were every one of those I have named in these new levies.

Now that the Christmas breaking up draws near, I have ordered Mr. Desnosyers to go to you, during

that time, to teach you to dance. I desire that you will particularly attend to the graceful motion of your arms; which, with the manner of putting on your hat, and giving your hand, is all that a gentleman need attend to. Dancing is in itself a very trifling, silly thing; but it is one of those established follies to which people of sense are sometimes obliged to conform; and then they should be able to do it well. And though I would not have you a dancer, yet when you do dance, I would have you dance well; as I would have you do every thing you do well. There is no one thing so trifling, but which (if it is to be done at all,) ought to be done well; and I have often told you that I wished you even played at pitch and cricket better than any boy at Westminster. For instance, dress is a very foolish thing, and yet it is a very foolish thing for a man not to be well dressed, according to his rank and way of life; and it is so far from being a disparagement to any man's understanding, that it is rather a proof of it, to be as well dressed as those whom he lives with: the difference in this case between a man of sense and a fop is, that the fop values himself upon his dress; and the man of sense laughs at it, at the same time that he knows he must not neglect it. There are a thousand foolish customs of this kind, which, not being criminal, must be complied with, and even cheerfully, by men of sense. Diogenes the cynic was a wise man for despising them; but a fool for showing it. Be wiser than other people, if you can; but do not tell them so.

It is a very fortunate thing for Sir Charles Hotham, to have fallen into the hands of one of your age, experience, and knowledge of the world: I am persuaded you will take infinite care of him. Good night.

From the Same to the Same.

Feb. 16, 18—.

Dear Boy,—The first use that I made of my liberty, was to come hither, where I arrived yesterday. My health, though not fundamentally bad, yet, for want of proper attention of late, wanted some repairs, which these waters never fail giving it. I shall drink them a month, and return to London, there to enjoy the comforts of social life, instead of groaning under the load of business. I have given the description of the life that I proposed to lead for the future, in this motto, which I have put up in the frieze of my library in my new house.

Nunc veterum libris, nunc somno, et inertibus horis
Ducere sollicitæ jucunda oblivia vitæ.

I must observe to you, upon this occasion, that the uninterrupted satisfaction which I expect to find in that library will be chiefly owing to my having employed some part of my life well at your age. I wish I had employed it better, and my satisfaction would now be complete; but, however, I planted while young, that degree of knowledge which is now my refuge and my shelter. Make your plantations still more extensive, they will more than pay you for your trouble. I do not regret the time that I passed in pleasures; they were seasonable, they were the pleasures of youth, and I enjoyed them while young. If I had not, I should probably have overvalued them now, as we are very apt to do what we do not know: but knowing them as I do, I know their real value, and how much they are generally overrated. Nor do I regret the time that I have passed in business, for the same

reason; those who see only the outside of it, imagine that it has hidden charms, which they pant after; and nothing but acquaintance can undeceive them. I, who have been behind the scenes, both of pleasure and business, and have seen all the springs and pulleys of those decorations which astonish and dazzle the audience, retire, not only without regret, but with contentment and satisfaction. But what I do, and ever shall regret, is the time which, while young, I lost in mere idleness, and in doing nothing. This is the common effect of the inconsideracy of youth, against which I beg you will be most carefully upon your guard. The value of moments, when cast up, is immense, if well employed; if thrown away, their loss is irrecoverable. Every moment may be put to some use, and that with much more pleasure than if unemployed. Do not imagine that by the employment of time I mean an uninterrupted application to serious studies. No; pleasures are, at proper times, both as necessary and useful; they fashion and form you for the world; they teach you characters, and show you the human heart in its unguarded minutes. But then remember to make that use of them. I have known many people, from laziness of mind, go through both pleasure and business with equal inattention; neither enjoying the one nor the other; thinking themselves men of pleasure, because they were mingled with those who were, and men of business, because they had business to do, though they did not do it. Whatever you do, do it to the purpose; do it thoroughly, not superficially. *Approfondissez*; go to the bottom of the things. Any thing half done, or half known, is, in my mind, neither done nor known at all. Nay worse, for it often misleads.

There is hardly any place, or any company, where you may not gain knowledge, if you please; almost everybody knows some one thing, and is glad to talk upon that one thing. Seek, and you will find, in this world as well as in the next. See every thing, inquire into every thing; and you may excuse your curiosity, and the questions you would ask, which otherwise might be thought impertinent, by your manner of asking them; for most things depend a great deal upon the manner. As for example, *I am afraid that I am very troublesome with my questions, but nobody can inform me as well as you*; or something of that kind.

Now that you are in a Lutheran country, go to their churches, and observe the manner of their public worship: attend to their ceremonies, and inquire the meaning and intention of every one of them. And as you will soon understand German well enough, attend to their sermons, and observe their manner of preaching. Inform yourself of their church government: whether it resides in the sovereign, or in consistories and synods; whence arises the maintenance of their clergy; whether from tithes, as in England, or from voluntary contributions, or from pensions from the state. Do the same thing when you are in Roman Catholic countries; go to their churches, see all their ceremonies; ask the meaning of them, get the terms explained to you. As for instance; prime, tierce, sexte, nones, matins, angelus, high mass, vespers, complines, &c. Inform yourself of their several religious orders, their founders, their rules, their vows, their habits, their revenues, &c. But when you frequent places of public worship, as I would have you go to all the different ones you meet with, remember, that however erroneous,

they are none of them objects of laughter and ridicule. Honest error is to be pitied, not ridiculed. The object of all the public worships in the world is the same: it is that great Eternal Being, who created every thing. The different manners of worship are by no means subject of ridicule. Each sect thinks its own the best, and I know no infallible judge in this world to decide which is the best. Make the same inquiries wherever you are, concerning the revenues, the military establishment, the trade, the commerce, and the police of every country; and you should do well to keep a blank paper-book, which the Germans call an *album*; and there, instead of desiring, as they do, every fool they meet with to scribble something, write down all these things as soon as they come to your knowledge from good authority.

I had almost forgotten one thing, which I would recommend as an object of curiosity and information; that is, the administration of justice, which, as it is always carried on in open court, you may, and I would have you, go see it with attention and inquiry.

I have now but one anxiety left, which is concerning you. I would have you be, what I know nobody is, perfect. As this is impossible, I would have you as near perfection as possible. I know nobody in a fairer way towards it than yourself, if you please. Never were so much pains taken for anybody's education as for yours; and never had anybody those opportunities of knowledge and improvement which you have had, and still have. I hope, I wish, I doubt, and I fear alternately. This only am I sure of, that you will prove either the greatest pain, or the greatest pleasure of Yours.

From the Same to the Same.

February 22d, 18—.

Dear Boy—Every excellency, and every virtue, has its kindred vice and weakness ; and if carried beyond certain bounds, sinks into the one or the other. Generosity often runs into profusion, economy into avarice, courage into rashness, caution into timidity, and so on : insomuch that I believe there is more judgment required, for the proper conduct of our virtues, than for avoiding their opposite vices. Vice, in its true light, is so deformed, that it shocks us at first sight, and would hardly ever seduce us if it did not at first wear the mask of some virtue. But virtue is in itself so beautiful, that it charms us at first sight ; engages us more and more upon farther acquaintance, and as with other beauties, we think excess impossible ; it is here that judgment is necessary, to moderate and direct the effects of an excellent cause. I shall apply this reasoning at present, not to any particular virtue, but to an excellency which, for want of judgment, is often the cause of ridiculous and blameable effects ; I mean great learning, which if not accompanied with sound judgment, frequently carries us into error, pride, and pedantry. As I hope you will possess that excellency in its utmost extent, and yet without its too common failings, the hints which my experience can suggest, may probably not be useless to you.

Some learned men, proud of their knowledge, only speak to decide, and give judgment without appeal. The consequence of which is, that mankind, provoked by the insult, and injured by the oppression, revolt ; and in order to shake off the tyranny, even call the lawful authority in question.

The more you know, the modester you should be and (by the bye) that modesty is the surest way of gratifying your vanity. Even where you are sure, seem rather doubtful; represent, but do not pronounce; and, if you would convince others, seem open to conviction yourself.

Others, to show their learning, are often, from the prejudices of a school-education, where they hear of nothing else, always talking of the Ancients, as something more than men, and of the Moderns as something less. They are never without a classic or two in their pockets: they stick to the old good sense; they read none of the modern trash: and will show you plainly that no improvement has been made, in any one art or science, these last seventeen hundred years. I would by no means have you disown your acquaintance with the ancients; but still less would I have you brag of an exclusive intimacy with them. Speak of the moderns without contempt, and of the ancients without idolatry; judge them all by their merits, but not by their ages; and if you happen to have an Elzevir classic in your pocket, neither show it nor mention it.

Some great scholars, most absurdly, draw all their maxims, both for public and private life, from what they call parallel cases in the ancient authors; without considering, that in the first place, there never were, since the creation of the world, two cases exactly parallel: and, in the next place, that there never was a case stated, or even known, by any historian, with every one of its circumstances; which, however, ought to be known in order to be reasoned from. Reason upon the case itself, and the several circumstances that attend it, and act accordingly; but not from the authority of ancient

poets or historians. Take into your consideration, if you please, cases seemingly analogous; but take them as helps only, not as guides. We are really so prejudiced by our educations, that, as the ancients deified their heroes, we deify their madmen; of which, with all due regard to antiquity, I take Leonidas and Curtius to have been two distinguished ones.

And yet a solid pedant would, in a speech in parliament, relative to a tax of two-pence in the pound, upon some commodity or other, quote these two heroes, as examples of what we ought to do and suffer for our country. I have known these absurdities carried so far, by people of injudicious learning, that I should not be surprised, if some of them were to propose, while we are at war with the Gauls, that a number of geese should be kept in the Tower, upon account of the infinite advantage which Rome received, *in a parallel case*, from a certain number of geese in the capitol. This way of reasoning, and this way of speaking, will always form a poor politician, and puerile declaimer.

There is another species of learned men, who, though less dogmatical and supercilious, are not less impertinent. These are the communicative and shining pedants, who adorn their conversation, even with women, by happy quotations of Greek and Latin; and who have contracted such a familiarity with the Greek and Roman authors, that they call them by certain names or epithets denoting intimacy. As *old Homer*; that *sly rogue Horace*; *Maro* instead of Virgil, and *Naso* instead of Ovid. These are often imitated by coxcombs, who have no learning at all; but who have got some names and some scraps of ancient authors by heart, which they improperly and impertinently

retail in all companies, in hopes of passing for scholars. If, therefore, you would avoid the accusation of pedantry on the one hand, or the suspicion of ignorance on the other, abstain from learned ostentation. Speak the language of the company you are in, speak it purely and unlarded with any other. Never seem wiser, nor more learned, than the people you are with. Wear your learning like your watch, in a private pocket; and do not pull it out and strike it, merely to show that you have one. If you are asked what o'clock it is, tell it; but do not proclaim it hourly and unasked like the watchman.

Upon the whole, remember that learning (I mean Greek and Roman learning) is a most useful and necessary ornament, which it is shameful not to be master of; but, at the same time, most carefully avoid those errors and abuses which I have mentioned, and which too often attend it. Remember too, that great modern knowledge is still more necessary than ancient; and that you had better know perfectly the present than the old state of Europe; though I would have you well acquainted with both.

I have this moment received your letter of the 17th. Though, I confess, there is no great variety in your present manner of life, yet materials can never be wanting for a letter; you see, you hear, or you read, something new every day; a short account of which, with your reflections thereupon, will make out a letter very well. But since you desire a subject, pray send me an account of the Lutheran establishment in Germany; their religious tenets, their church government, the maintenance, authority, and titles, of their clergy.

Vitorio Siri, complete, is a very scarce and very dear book here; but I do not want it. If your

own library grows too voluminous, you will not know what to do with it, when you leave Leipzig. Your best way will be, when you go away from thence, to send to England, by Hamburg, all the books that you do not absolutely want.

Yours.

From the Same to the Same.

November 4th, 18—.

Dear Boy—our correspondence has been for some time suspended by the hurry and dissipation of this place, which left me no time to write; and it will soon cease entirely by my return to England, which will be, I believe, in about a fortnight. I own I am impatient to see the great progress which I am persuaded you have made, both in your learning and behaviour, during my six months' absence. I join behaviour with learning, because it is almost as necessary; and they should always go together for their mutual advantage. Mere learning without good breeding is pedantry, and good breeding without learning is but frivolous: whereas learning adds solidity to good breeding, and good breeding gives charms and graces to learning.

This place is, without dispute, the seat of true good breeding; the people here are civil without ceremony, and familiar without rudeness. They are neither disagreeably forward, nor awkwardly bashful and shame-faced; they speak to their superiors with as little concern, and as much ease, though with more respect, as to their inferiors; and they speak to their inferiors, with as much civility, though less respect, as to their superiors. They despise us, and with reason, for our ill-breeding: on the other hand, we despise them for their

want of learning, and we are in the right of it, so that you see the sure way to be admired by both nations, is to join learning and good breeding. As to learning, consider that you have now but one year more with Mr. Mattaire, before you go to Westminster School, and that your credit will depend upon the place you are put in there at first; and if you can, at under eleven years old, be put in the fourth form, above boys of thirteen or fourteen, it will give people very favourable impressions of you, and be of great advantage to you for the future. As to good breeding, you cannot attend to it too soon, or too much; it must be acquired while young, or it is never quite easy; and if acquired young, will always last and be habitual. Horace says, "*quo semel est imbuta recens servabit odorem testa diu*:" to show the advantage of giving people good habits and impressions in their youth. I say nothing to you now as to honour, virtue, truth, and all moral duties, which are to be strictly observed at all ages, and at all times; because I am sure you are convinced of the indispensable necessity of practising them all; and of the infamy as well as the guilt, of neglecting or acting contrary to any of them. May you excel in them all, that you may be beloved by everybody as much as you are hitherto by your, &c.

TRAVELLERS' LETTERS.

From a Gentleman to a Lady.

November 25th, 17—.

Dear Friend—I came to this place on Saturday night, right well and untired with a seventy miles' journey. That day I met with your and my Dolly's joint letter, which would have refreshed me with its kindness if I had been ever so weary.

The account you give of a certain lady's having entertained a new gallant, in my absence, did not surprise me; for I have been used to rivals, and scarce ever had a friend or a mistress in my whole life, that other people did not like as well as myself. And, therefore, I did not wonder when I read in the newspapers some weeks since, that "the Duke of C." (that general lover) "had made many visits of late to an old lady not many miles from Craven Street." I only wondered, considering the dislike she used to have for the family, that she would receive his visits. But as I saw soon after, that Prince Charles had left Rome, and was gone a long journey, nobody knew whither, I made no doubt but the newswriters had mistaken the person, and that it was he, who had taken the opportunity of my absence to solace himself with his old friend.

I thank you for your intelligence about my godson. I believe you are sincere, when you say you think him as fine a child as you wish to see. He had cut two teeth, and three, in another letter, make five; for I know you never write tautologies. If I have over-reckoned, the number will be right by this time. His being like me in so

many particulars pleases me prodigiously ; and I am persuaded there is another which you have omitted, though it must have occurred to you, while you were putting them down. Pray let him have every thing he likes. I think it of great consequence, while the features of the countenance are forming ; it gives them a pleasant air, and that being once become natural and fixed by habit, the face is ever after the handsomer for it, and on that much of a person's good fortune and success in life may depend. Had I been crossed as much in my infant likings and inclinations, as you know I have been of late years, I should have been, I was going to say, not near so handsome, but as the vanity of that expression would offend other folks' vanity, I change it, out of regard to them, and say, a great deal more homely.

I rejoice that your good mother's new regimen succeeds so well with her. We are to set out, my son and I, to-morrow for London, where I hope to be by the end of the week, and to find her, and you, and all yours well and happy. My love to them all. They tell me dinner is coming in, and I have yet said nothing to Dolly ; but must nevertheless conclude, my dear friend.

Yours ever most affectionately.

P.S. I am very happy here in the pleasant family of Mr. Burke's mother and sister.

From the Same to the Same.

July 4, 17--.

Dear Friend—By this post I have given orders to engage a fine ship, now at London, to carry me and my family to Philadelphia. My baggage is already on the Seine, going down to Havre, from

whence, if the captain cannot call for us there, we shall cross the channel, and meet him at Cowes, in the Isle of Wight. The ship has a large, convenient cabin, with good lodging-places. The whole will be at my disposition, and there is plenty of room for you and yours. You may never have so good an opportunity of passing to America, if it is your intention. Think of it, and take your resolution; believing me ever

Your affectionate friend.

P. S. Love to the dear children. If Mr. Williams is returned to London, he will inform you of the particulars. If not, you may inquire of Wallace, Johnson, & Muir, merchants, London, to be heard of at the Pennsylvania Coffee-House, Birchin Lane. The Ship is to be at Cowes the 1st of August.

The Author of the Sentimental Journey to Mr. Garrick.

Jan. 31, 17—.

My dear Friend—Think not, because I have been a fortnight in this metropolis without writing to you, that therefore I have not had you and Mrs. Garrick a hundred times in my head and heart—heart! yes, yes, say you—but I must not waste paper in *badinage* this post, whatever I do the next. Well! here I am, my friend, as much improved in my health, for the time, as ever your friendship could wish, or at least your faith give credit to—by the bye I am somewhat worse in my intellectuals, for my head is turned round with what I see and the unexpected honours I have met with here. Tristram was almost as much known here as in London, at least among your men of condition and learning, and has got me

introduced into so many circles ('tis *comme a Londres*.) I have just now a fortnight's dinners and suppers upon my hands.—My application to the Count de Choiseul goes on swimmingly, for not only Mr. Pelletiere (who, by the bye, sends ten thousand civilities to you and Mrs. Garrick) has undertaken my affair, but the Count de Limbourg, —the Baron de Holbach has offered any security for the inoffensiveness of my behaviour in France —'tis more, you rogue, than you will do. This Baron is one of the most learned noblemen here, the great protector of wits, and the *sçavans* who are no wits—keeps open house three days a week —his house is now, as yours was to me, my own—he lives at great expense. 'Twas an odd incident when I was introduced to the Count de Bissie, which I was at his desire—I found him reading *Tristram*. This grandee does me great honours, and gives me leave to go a private way through his apartments, into the Palais Royal, to view the Duke of Orleans' collection every day I have time. I have been at the Doctors of Sorbonne—I hope in a fortnight to break through, or rather from, the delights of this place, which, in the *sçavoir-vivre*, exceeds all the places, I believe, in this section of the globe——

I am going, when this letter is wrote, with Mr. Fox and Mr. MacCartney to Versailles—the next morning I wait upon Mons. Titon, in company with Mr. MacCartney, who is known to him, to deliver your commands. I have brought you the pamphlet upon theatrical, or rather tragical declamation. I have brought another in verse worth reading, and you will receive them, with what I can pick up this week, by a servant of Mr. Hodges, whom he is sending back to England.

I was last night with Mr. Fox to see Mademoiselle Claron in *Iphigene*—she is extremely great—I wish you had one or two like her—what a luxury, to see you with one of such powers in the same interesting scene—but 'tis too much—Ah! Prevaille! thou art Mercury himself.—By virtue of taking a couple of boxes, we have bespoke this week *The Frenchman in London*, in which Prevaille is to send us home to supper all happy—I mean about fifteen or sixteen English of distinction, who are now here, and live well with each other.

I am under great obligations to Mr. Pitt, who has behaved in every respect to me like a man of good-breeding and good-nature—in a post or two, I will write again—Foley is an honest soul—I could write six volumes of what has passed comically in this great scene since these last fourteen days—but more of this hereafter.—We are all going into mourning; nor you, nor Mrs. Garrick, would know me, if you met me in my *remise*—bless you both! Service to Mrs. Denis. Adieu, adieu!

The Same to a Friend at Paris.

April 18, 17—.

Dear Foley—I thank you for your punctuality in sending me the rescription, and for your box by the courier, which came safe by last post—I was not surprised much with your account of lord * * * * * being obliged to give way—and for the rest all follows in course.—I suppose you will endeavour to fish and catch something for yourself in these troubled waters—at least I wish you all a reasonable man can wish for himself—which is

wishing enough for you—all the rest is in the brain—Mr. Woodhouse (whom you know) is also here—he is a most amiable worthy man, and I have the pleasure of having him much with me—in a short time he proceeds to Italy.—The first week in June, I decamp like a patriarch with my whole household, to pitch our tents for three months at the foot of the Pyrenean hills at Bagnieres, where I expect much health and much amusement from the concourse of adventurers from all corners of the earth.—Mrs. M—— sets out at the same time for another part of the Pyrenean hills, at Courtray—from whence to Italy—this is the general plan of operation here—except that I have some thoughts of spending the winter at Florence, and crossing over with my family to Leghorn by water—and in April of returning by way of Paris home—but this is a sketch only, for in all things I am governed by circumstances—so that what is fit to be done on Monday, may be very unwise on Saturday—On all days of the week believe me yours, with unfeigned truth.

P. S. All compliments to my Parisian friends.

*From an English Lady, a celebrated Traveller, to
a Friend.*

Aug. 13, 17—.

I am extremely sorry, my dear S., that your fears of disobliging your relations, and their fears for your health and safety, have hindered me from enjoying the happiness of your company, and you the pleasure of a diverting journey. I receive some degree of mortification from every agreeable novelty, or pleasing prospect, by the reflection of

your having so unluckily missed the delight which I know it would have given you. If you were with me in this town you would be ready to expect to receive visits from your Nottingham friends. No two places were ever more resembling; one has but to give the Maese the name of the Trent, and there is no distinguishing the prospect. The houses, like those of Nottingham, are built one above another, and are intermixed in the same manner with trees and gardens. The tower they call Julius Cæsar's, has the same situation with Nottingham Castle; and I cannot help fancying I see from it the Trent field, Adboulton, places so well known to us. It is true, the fortifications make considerable difference. All the learned in the art of war bestow great commendation upon them; for my part, that know nothing of the matter, I shall content myself with telling you, it is a very pretty walk on the ramparts, on which there is a tower, very deservedly called the Belvidere, where people go to drink coffee, tea, &c., and enjoy one of the finest prospects in the world. The public walks have no great beauty, but the thick shade of the trees, which is solemnly delightful. But I must not forget to take notice of the bridge, which appeared very surprising to me. It is large enough to hold hundreds of men, with horses and carriages.—They give the value of an English two-pence to get upon it, and then away they go, bridge and all, to the other side of the river, with so slow a motion, one is hardly sensible of any at all. I was yesterday at the French church, and stared very much at their manner of service. The parson clapped on a broad-brimmed hat, in the first place, which gave him entirely the air of what d'ye call him, in Bartholomew fair, which he kept up

by extraordinary antic gestures, and preaching much such stuff as t'other talked to the puppets. However, the congregation seemed to receive it with great devotion; and I was informed by some of his flock, that he is a person of particular fame amongst them. I believe by this time you are as much tired with my account of him, as I was with his sermon; but I am sure your brother will excuse a digression in favour of the church of England. You know speaking disrespectfully of the Calvinists, is the same thing as speaking honourably of the church. Adieu, my dear S., always remember me, and be assured I can never forget you, &c. &c.

From an English Bishop in India to a Friend in England.

December, 18—.

My dear Wilmot—The speed of our voyage in the Grenville, by landing us in India some weeks before the time at which we might have been expected to arrive there, has been productive of one uncomfortable effect, by making us appear so much the longer without letters from England. Only one Liverpool vessel has since arrived, which was not of a date previous to the time of our own sailing, and she brought papers only a very few days more recent than ours. Reports, however, have from time to time been raised, of vessels supposed from Europe, seen working up towards Saugor; and you may well conceive the eagerness with which we have, on such occasions, anticipated the arrival of those bundles of information and kind wishes which form the delight of an English post-day, and to us, on the Ganges, would be, I cannot

say how interesting. The Grenville, however, is now about to sail again, and I take advantage of her return to remind those valued friends who may, possibly, not yet have written to us, how much their correspondence allays the pain of absence.

This is a fine country, and, at this time of the year, a very fine climate. We have, indeed, no mountains, not even an elevation so high as the mount in Kensington Gardens, which I recollect the more, because in them was my last ramble with yourself and Hay. We have no springs, no running streams except the Ganges, and we have not much of open, plain, and dry turf. But we have wood and water in abundance; the former of the noblest description of foliage which I have ever seen, both in form, verdure, variety, and depth of shadow. I had no idea of the beauty and majesty of an Indian wood: the coloured prints which I had seen in England being as unlike the sober richness of the reality as the bloom of Mrs. Salmon's wax-work goddesses to Mrs. ———. Nor, to those who like wandering about an immense conservatory, or who are pleased and interested with cane-work cottages, little gardens of plantains and pine-apples, and the sight of a very poor but simple, and by no means inelegant, race of peasants, are there prettier rides than those afforded by the lanes and hedge-rows round Calcutta. The mornings, from five to eight, are now equal to the pleasantest time of year in England; then follow about eight hours, during which a man does well to remain in the house, but which, under such circumstances, are not too hot either for comfort or any kind of mental exertion; and from four to dark it is again about the temperature of our sum-

mer evening. This is, indeed, the best time of the year. Of the rains and the hot winds every body speaks with very alarming eloquence, and I apprehend that, during their continuance, a bare existence is all that any man can hope for. We had some little of these last on our first arrival, but not sufficient to prevent our morning and evening airings. They were, however, sufficiently potent to induce us to believe all which had been told us of the necessity of cool clothing, cool diet, and quietness.

* * * * *

Of the people of this country, and the manner in which they are governed, I have, as yet, hardly seen enough to form an opinion. I have seen enough, however, to find that the customs, the habits, and prejudices of the former are much misunderstood in England. We have all heard, for instance, of the humanity of the Hindoos towards brute creatures, their horror of animal food, &c.; and you may be, perhaps, as much surprised as I was, to find that those who can afford it are hardly less carnivorous than ourselves; that even the purest brahmins are allowed to eat mutton and venison; that fish is permitted to many castes, and pork to many others; and that, though they consider it as a grievous crime to kill a cow or bullock for the purpose of eating, yet they treat their draft oxen, no less than their horses, with a degree of barbarous severity which would turn an English hackney-coachman sick. Nor have their religious prejudices, and the unchangeableness of their habits, been less exaggerated. Some of the best-informed of their nation, with whom I have conversed, assure me that half their most remarkable customs of civil and domestic life are borrowed

from their Mohammedan conquerors; and at present there is an obvious and increasing disposition to imitate the English in every thing, which has already led to very remarkable changes, and will, probably, to still more important. The wealthy natives now all affect to have their houses ~~decorated~~ ^{ornamented} with Corinthian pillars, and filled with English furniture. They drive the best horses and most dashing carriages in Calcutta. Many of them speak English fluently, and are tolerably read in English literature; and the children of one of our friends I saw one day dressed in jacket and trowsers, with round hats, shoes and stockings. In the Bengalee newspapers, of which there are two or three, politics are canvassed with a bias, as I am told, inclining to whiggism, and one of their leading men gave a great dinner, not long since, in honour of the Spanish revolution. Among the lower orders the same feeling shows itself more beneficially, in a growing neglect of *caste*,—in not merely a willingness, but an anxiety, to send their children to our schools, and a desire to learn and speak English, which, if properly encouraged, might, I verily believe, in fifty years' time, make our language what the *Oordoo*, or *court* and *camp* language of the country (the Hindoostanee,) is at present. And though instances of actual conversion to Christianity are; as yet, very uncommon, yet the number of children, both male and female, who are now receiving a sort of Christian education, reading the New Testament, repeating the Lord's Prayer and commandments, and all with the consent, or at least without the censure, of their parents or spiritual guides, have increased, during the last two years, to an amount which astonishes the old European residents, who were used to trem-

ble at the name of a missionary, and shrink from the common duties of Christianity, lest they should give offence to their heathen neighbours. So far from that being a consequence of the zeal which has^{1st} been lately shown, many of the Brahmins themselves express admiration of the Gospel, and profess to entertain a better opinion of the English since they have found that they too have a religion and a Shaster. All that seems necessary for the best effects to follow is, to let things take their course, to make the missionaries discreet, to keep the government as it now is, strictly neuter, and to place our confidence in a general diffusion of knowledge, and in making ourselves really useful to the temporal as well as spiritual interests of the people among whom we live. In all these points there is, indeed, great room for improvement. I do not by any means assent to the pictures of depravity and general worthlessness which some have drawn of the Hindoos. They are decidedly, by nature, a mild, pleasing, and intelligent race; sober, parsimonious, and, where an object is held out to them, most industrious and persevering. But the magistrates and lawyers all agree, that in no country are lying and perjury so common, and so little regarded. Notwithstanding the apparent mildness of their manners, the criminal calendar is generally as full as in Ireland, with gang-robberies, setting fire to buildings, stacks, &c. &c.; and the number of children who are decoyed aside and murdered, for the sake of their ornaments, Lord Amherst assures me, is dreadful. Yet in all these points a gradual amelioration is said to be perceptible; and I am sure there is no ground whatever for the assertion, that the people are become less innocent or prosperous under British administra-

tion. In Bengal, at least in this neighbourhood, I am assured by the missionaries, who, as speaking the language, and associating with the lower classes, are by far the best judges, that the English government is popular. They are, in fact, lightly taxed (though that taxation is clumsily arranged, and liable to considerable abuse, from the extortions of the native Aumeens and Chokeydars); they have no military conscription, or forced services; they live in great security from the march of armies, &c.; and, above all, they some of them recollect in their own country, and all of them may hear or witness in the case of their neighbours in Oude and the Birman empire, how very differently all these things are managed under the Hindoo and Mohammedan sovereignties.

One very wise and liberal measure of government has been, the appropriation of all the internal transit duties to the construction of roads and bridges, and the improvement of the towns where they are levied. A more popular, however, and I believe better policy, would have been to remit those duties altogether. They are precisely the things in which the Chokeydars, and other underlings, are most fraudulent and oppressive. Twice as much is extorted by these fellows from the poor country people as they are authorized to receive, and of what is authorized, only a moderate part finds its way into the Company's coffers. Under such circumstances it might, perhaps, be better to remove all restraints from internal intercourse and trade, to make the people industrious and prosperous, and to be assured that improvements would follow by degrees, in proportion as they became necessary or desirable. Lord Cornwallis's famous settlement of the Zemindary rents in Bengal, is often severely censured here, as not sufficiently

protecting the ryuts, and depriving the government of all advantage from the improvements of the territory. They who reason thus, have, apparently, forgotten that, without some such settlement, those improvements would never have taken place at all; that almost every Zemindary which is brought to the hammer (and they are pretty numerous) is divided and subdivided, each successive sale, among smaller proprietors, and that the progress is manifestly going on to a minute division of the soil among the actual cultivators, and subject to no other burdens than a fixed and very moderate quit-rent, a state of things by no means undesirable in a nation, and which only needs to be corrected in its possible excess by a law of primogeniture, and by encouraging, instead of forbidding, the purchase of lands by the English. On the desirableness of this last measure, as the most probable means of improving the country and attaching the peasantry to our government,—I find, in Calcutta, little difference of opinion. All the restriction which seems necessary is, that the collectors of the Company's taxes shall not be allowed to purchase lands within the limits of their districts; and if the same law were extended to their Hindoo and Mussulman deputies, a considerable source of oppression, which now exists, would be dried up or greatly mitigated.

From the Same to another Friend.

January 9th, 18—.

My dear Thornton—

* * * * * * * *

I do not think, indeed, that the direct duties of this diocese, bating the visitations, are more than a man may do with a moderate share of diligence.

They are such, however, as I must do all for myself, since though I keep a native scribe at work from nine till four daily, he can only be trusted to copy what I write, while it is necessary for me to obtain and keep copies of all the official correspondence in which I am a party; besides which, an intercourse with chaplains, missionaries, and religious societies is, in India, all carried on by letter, and what in England would be settled in a few minutes by personal communication, is here the subject of long arguments, explanations, and rejoinders in writing. I at first, therefore, had occasion to work pretty hard, and am now so fortunate as to be completely rid of all arrears of business, and to find myself equal to the daily calls of my correspondents, without so completely sacrificing all other studies, as I was for some time compelled to do. Still I am without books, and what has been still more inconvenient, without sermons, so that I have been lately obliged to compose often two, and sometimes three a week, amid greater distractions, and with fewer opportunities of study or reference than I ever before had to complain of. I continue well, however, thank God! and have abundant reason at present to be hopeful and contented in my situation, where I meet with such attention and kindness, and where the apparent field of usefulness is so great that, while I deeply feel my own insufficiency, I am more and more impressed with the undeserved goodness of God in calling me to such a situation.

* * * * *

To the affairs of the Church Missionary Society I have paid considerable attention, and have great reason to be satisfied with the manner in which they are conducted, as well as personally with the

committee, and all the missionaries whom I have seen. I have, as you are perhaps aware, obtained their adoption of some changes in the constitution of the society, qualified, I hope, to put us on a more stable and popular footing, and to obtain for us both at home and in India a greater notoriety and usefulness.

* * * * *

Pray tell Mr. Parry that all which I have seen of India justifies his praises of it. It is a fine and most interesting country. The European society is agreeable, hospitable, and well-informed; there are many excellent people in Calcutta.

* * * * *

But, alas! new friends cannot be like old, new lands cannot be like home! And while I should be the most thankless of men not to be contented and happy here, I cannot help often wishing for a sight of the hill above Hodnct, or the new fence which I left you and Mrs. Thornton contriving at Clapham.

No orders have yet come out from government respecting a residence for me * * *
 Dr. Wallich has lent us his house at Tittyghur, between Calcutta and Barrackpoor, a delightful place, which apparently agrees with our little girl perfectly. The fort, from closeness, and other reasons, connected with closeness, is said to be often injurious to young and delicate persons; but without its rampart we would fain flatter ourselves even children may enjoy good health in this country, and some years at least may elapse before we are compelled to send ours to England. * *
 May God hear our prayers, and those, which it is one of my chief comforts to believe, are offered up

for us by our dear friends in England. God Almighty bless you.

Your ever affectionate friend

It was my intention till lately to set out by land for the upper provinces as soon as Emily was able to travel, and to stay at Ghazeepoor, a little on this side Benares, during the hot winds. In this expedition Archdeacon Corrie promised to accompany me, but a reconsideration of all which I am doing and have to do at Calcutta, has convinced me that I cannot be spared before the rains, when also hope for Mr. Corrie's company. The want of episcopal visitation, confirmation, &c. in all those vast districts, is said to be great.

From the Same to his Mother.

January 25th, 18—.

My dearest Mother—Our former packets will, I trust, before this time, have communicated to you the intelligence of our safe arrival, and of our subsequent proceedings.

* * * * *

Calcutta is a very striking place, but it so much resembles Petersburg, though on a less splendid scale, that I can hardly help fancying myself sometimes in Russia. The architecture of the principal houses is the same, with Italian porticoes, and all whitewashed or stuccoed, and the width and straightness of the principal streets, the want of pavement, the forms of the peasants' carts, and the crowds of foot-passengers in every street, as well as the multitude of servants, the want of furniture in the houses, and above all, the great dinner-

parties which are one distinguishing feature of the place, are all Muscovite.

* * * * *

The public here is very liberal, but the calls on charity are continual, and the number of five and ten pound subscriptions which are required of a man every month, for inundations, officers' widows, &c. &c. are such as surprise an Englishman on his first arrival, though he cannot but be pleased at the spirit which it evinces.

I am happy to set you at ease about pirates. There were, as you have been rightly informed, four or five years ago, a good many Arab pirates in the Bombay seas, but none that I have heard of ever ventured into the bay of Bengal, and even those who did exist are said to have been completely driven from the sea by the expedition which was sent some time back from Bombay against the Arabs of the Persian gulf. But with these seas I shall have little concern, since my journeys in that quarter will be chiefly by land. Those which I have to perform in this part of India will be mostly by the Ganges, on which skulking thieves are sometimes met with, but no robbers bold enough to attack European boats. I should have much preferred marching by land the whole way, as we at first proposed, but I found it impossible to leave Calcutta before the weather would have become too hot for such a journey. At the commencement of the rains we shall set out, and boat it all the way to Cawnpoor. The boats are like houses, and as comfortable as such things well can be; but our progress, by this method, will be very tedious and wearisome, compared with the amusement of a land journey with our tents and elephants. We shall, however, escape the rains, which is reckoned

the only unhealthy season in Bengal, when every road is a puddle, and every field a marsh, and every river a sea, and when the hot sun, playing on a vast surface of water and decayed vegetables, is regarded as the cause of almost all the diseases which are not brought on by intemperance and carelessness.

* * * * *

My morning rides are very pleasant; my horse is a nice, quiet, good-tempered little Arab, who is so fearless that he goes, without starting, close to an elephant, and so gentle and docile, that he eats bread out of my hand, and has almost as much attachment and coaxing ways as a dog. This seems the usual character of the Arab horse, who (to judge from those I have seen in this country,) is not the fiery dashing animal I had supposed, but with more rationality about him, and more apparent confidence in his rider, than the generality of English horses. The latter, however, bear the highest price here, from their superior size, and power of going through more work. The Indian horses are seldom good, and always ill-tempered and vicious; and it is the necessity of getting foreign horses which makes the expense so great as you have heard, while after all, in this climate, four horses will not do so much work as a pair in England.

Believe me, my dear Mother,
Your affectionate son.

I rejoice to hear that Mr. Fuller is coming out as Chief Justice. He is a kind and worthy man, and will, I think, be very popular here, as well as be an agreeable and friendly neighbour to us.

*From a Gentleman in Paris, to a Friend in Eng-
land.*

March 30, 16—.

Sir—I received two of yours in Rouen, with the bills of exchange there inclosed; and according to your directions I sent you those things which you wrote for.

I am now newly come to Paris, this huge magazine of men, the epitome of this large populous kingdom, and rendezvous of all foreigners. The structures here are indifferently fair, though the streets generally foul all four seasons of the year; which I impute first to the position of the city, being built upon an isle (the Isle of France, made so by the branching and serpentine course of the river of Seine), and having some of her suburbs seated high, the filth runs down the channel, and settles in many places within the body of the city, which lies upon a flat; as also for a world of coaches, carts, and horses of all sorts, that go to and fro perpetually, so that sometimes one shall meet with a stop half a mile long of those coaches, carts, and horses, that can move neither forward nor backward, by reason of some sudden encounter of others coming a cross-way; so that often times it will be an hour or two before they can disentangle. In such a stop the great Henry was so fatally slain by Ravillac. Hence comes it to pass, that this town (for Paris is a town, a city, and an university) is always dirty, and it is such a dirt, that by perpetual motion is beaten into such black, unctuous oil, that where it sticks no art can wash it off of some colours; insomuch, that it may be no improper comparison to say, that an ill name is like the *crot* (the dirt) of Paris, which is indelible;

besides the stain this dirt leaves, it gives also so strong a scent, that may be smelt many miles off, if the wind be in one's face as he comes from the fresh air of the country; this may be one cause why the plague is always in some corner or other of this vast city, which may be called, as once Scythia was, *vagina populorum*, or (as mankind was called by a great philosopher) a great mole-hill of ants; yet I believe this city is not so populous as she seems to be, for her form being round (as the whole kingdom is) the passengers wheel about, and meet oftener than they used to do in the long continued streets of London, which makes London appear less populous than she is indeed; so that London for length (though not for latitude), including Westminster, exceeds Paris, and hath in Michaelmas term more souls moving within her in all places. It is under one hundred years that Paris is become so sumptuous and strong in buildings; for her houses were mean, until a mine of white stone was discovered hard by, which runs in a continued vein of earth, and is digged out with ease, being soft, and is between a white clay and chalk at first: but being pulleyed up with the open air, it receives a crusty kind of hardness, and so becomes perfect free-stone; and before it is sent up from the pit, they can reduce it to any form; of this stone the Louvre, the king's palace, is built, which is a vast fabric, for the gallery wants not much of an Italian mile in length, and will easily lodge 3000 men; which, some told me, was the end for which the last king made it so big; that, lying at the fag-end of this great multinous city, if she perchance should rise, the king might pour out of the Louvre so many thousand men unawares into the heart of her.

I am lodged here hard by the Bastile, because it is furthest off from those places where the English resort : for I would go on to get a little language as soon as I could. In my next, I shall impart unto you what state-news France affords ; in the interim, and always, I am your humble servant.

From the Same to another Friend.

May 12th, 16—.

I am to set forward this week for Spain, and if I can find no commodity of embarkation at St. Maloes, I must be forced to journey it all the way by land, and clamber up the huge Pyrenee hills ; but I could not bid Paris adieu, till I had conveyed my true and constant respect to you by this letter. I was yesterday to wait upon Sir Herbert Crofts at St. Germain, where I met with a French gentleman, who, amongst other curiosities which he pleased to show me up and down Paris, brought me to that place where the late king was slain, and to that where the marquis of Ancres was shot ; and so made me a punctual relation of all the circumstances of those two acts, which in regard they were rare, and I believe two of the notablest accidents that ever happened in France, I thought it worth the labour to make you partaker of some part of his discourse.

France, as all Christendom besides (for there was then a truce betwixt Spain and the Hollanders), was in a profound peace, and had continued so twenty years together, when Henry IV. fell upon some great martial design, the bottom whereof is not known to this day ; and being rich (for he had heaped up in the Bastile a mount of gold

that was as high as a lance), he levied a huge army of 40,000 men, whence came the song, "The King of France with forty thousand men;" and upon a sudden he put his army in perfect equipage, and some say he invited our Prince Henry to come to him to be a sharer in his exploits. But going one afternoon to the Bastile, to see his treasure and ammunition, his coach stopped suddenly, by reason of some colliers and other carts that were in that street; whereupon one Ravillac, a lay jesuit (who had a whole twelve-month watched an opportunity to do the act), put his foot boldly upon one of the wheels of the coach, and with a long knife stretched himself over their shoulders who were in the boot of the coach, and reached the king at the end, and stabbed him right in the left side to the heart, and pulling out the fatal steel he doubled his thrust, the king with a ruthless voice cried out, *Je suis blessé* (I am hurt), and suddenly the blood gushed out at his mouth. The regicide villain was apprehended, and command given that no violence should be offered him, that he might be reserved for the law, and some exquisite torture. The queen grew half distracted hereupon, who had been crowned queen of France the day before in great triumph; but in a few days after she had something to countervail, if not to overmatch, her sorrow; for according to St. Lewis's law, she was made queen-regent of France, during the king's minority, who was then but about ten years of age. Many consultations were held how to punish Ravillac, and there were some Italian physicians that undertook to prescribe a torment, that should last a constant torment for three days; but he escaped only with this—his body was pulled between four horses, that one might

hear his bones crack, and after the dislocation they were set again; and so he was carried in a cart, standing half naked, with a torch in that hand which had committed the murder, and in the place where the act was done it was cut off, and a gauntlet of hot oil was clapped upon the stump to staunch the blood; whereat he gave a doleful shriek: then was he brought upon a stage, where a new pair of boots was provided for him, half filled with boiling oil; then his body was pincered, and hot oil poured into the holes. In all the extremity of this torture he scarce showed any sense of pain; but when the gauntlet was clapped upon his arm, to staunch the flux at that time of reeking blood, he gave a shriek only. He bore up against all these torments about three hours before he died. All the confession that could be drawn from him was, That he thought to have done God good service, to take away that king which would have embroiled all Christendom in an endless war.

A fatal thing it was that France should have three of her kings come to such violent deaths in so short a revolution of time. Henry II., running at tilt with M. Montgomery, was killed by a splinter of a lance that pierced his eye; Henry III. not long after was killed by a young friar, who, in lieu of a letter which he pretended to have for him, pulled out of his long sleeve a knife, and thrust it into his body, and so dispatched him; but that regicide was hacked to pieces in the place by the nobles. The same destiny attended the king by Ravillac, which is become now a common name of reproach and infamy in France.

Never was a king so much lamented as this; there are a world not only of his pictures, but statues up and down France; and there is scarce a

market town but hath him erected in the market place, or over some gate, not upon sign-posts, as our Henry VIII.; and by a public act of parliament, which was confirmed in the consistory at Rome, he was entitled Henry the Great, and so placed in the temple of Immortality. A notable prince he was, and of an admirable temper of body and mind; he had a graceful facetious way to gain both love and awe: he would be never transported beyond himself with choler, but he would pass by any thing with some repartee, some witty strain, wherein he was excellent. I will instance in a few which were told me from a good hand. One day he was charged by the duke of Bouillon to have changed his religion, he answered, "No, cousin, I have changed no religion, but an opinion:" and the cardinal of Perron being by, he enjoined him to write a treatise for his vindication: the cardinal was long about the work, and when the king asked from time to time where his book was, he would still answer him, That he expected some manuscripts from Rome before he could finish it. It happened, that one day the king took the cardinal along with him to look on his workmen and new buildings at the Louvre; and passing by one corner which had been a long time begun, but left unfinished, the king asked the chief mason why that corner was not all this while perfected? "Sir, it is because I want some choice marble."—"No, no," said the king, looking upon the cardinal, "it is because thou wantest manuscripts from Rome." Another time when at the siege of Amiens, he having sent for the Count of Soissons (who had 100,000 francs a year pension from the crown to assist him in those wars,) and that the count excused himself by reason of his years and poverty, having exhaust-

ed himself in the former wars, and all that he could do now was to pray for his majesty, which he would do heartily : this answer being brought to the king, he replied, " Will my cousin, the Count of Spissons, do nothing else but pray for me ? tell him, that prayer without fasting is not available ; therefore I will make my cousin fast also from his pension of 100,000 *per annum*."

He was once troubled with a fit of the gout ; and the Spanish Ambassador coming then to visit him, and saying he was sorry to see his majesty so lame, he answered, " As lame as I am, if there were occasion, your master the king of Spain should no sooner have his foot in the stirrup but he should find me on horseback."

By these few you may guess at the genius of this sprightly prince : I could make many more instances, but then I should exceed the bounds of a letter. When I am in Spain you shall hear further from me ; and if you can think on any thing wherein I may serve you, believe it, sir, that any employment from you shall be welcome to your much obliged servant.

From the Same in Barcelona, to a Friend in England.

Nov. 10, 16—.

My dear Tom—I had no sooner set foot upon this soil, and breathed Spanish air, but my thoughts presently reflected upon you ; of all my friends in England, you were the first I met here ; you were the prime object of my speculation ; methought the very winds in gentle whispers did breathe out your name and blow it on me ; you seemed to reverberate upon me with the beams of the sun,

which you know hath such a powerful influence, and indeed too great a stroke in this country. And all this you must ascribe to the operations of love, which has such a strong virtual force, that when it fasteneth upon a pleasing subject, it sets the imagination in a strange fit of working, it employs all the faculties of the soul, so that not one cell in the brain is idle; it busieth the whole inward man; it affects the heart, amusethe understanding; it quickeneth the fancy, and leads the will as it were by a silken thread to co-operate them all; I have felt these motions often in me, especially at this time that my memory is fixed on you. But the reason that I fell first upon you in Spain was, that I remember I had heard you often discoursing how you have received part of your education here, which brought you to speak the language so exactly well. I think often of the relations I have heard you make of this country, and the good instruction you pleased to give me.

I am now in Barcelona, but the next week I intend to go on through your town of Valentia to Alicant, and thence you shall be sure to hear from me further, for I make account to winter there. The Duke of Ossuna passed by here lately, and having got leave of grace to release some slaves, he went aboard the Cape galleys, and passing through the *churma* of slaves, he asked divers of them what their offences were; every one excused himself; one saying, That he was put in out of malice, another by bribery of the judge, but all of them unjustly; among the rest there was one little sturdy black man, and the Duke asking him what he was in for, "Sir," said he, "I cannot deny but I am justly put in here, for I wanted money, and so took a purse hard by Tarragone, to keep

me from starving." The duke, with a little staff he had in his hand, gave him two or three blows upon the shoulders, saying, "You rogue, what do you do amongst so many honest innocent men? get you gone out of their company;" so he was freed, and the rest remained still *in statu quo prius*, to tug at the oar.

I pray commend me to Signior Camillo, and Mazalor, with the rest of the Venetians with you; and when you go aboard the ship behind the Exchange, think upon yours.

From the Same in Valentia to a Friend.

March 1st, 16—.

Sir—Though it be the same glorious sun that shines upon you in England, which illuminates also this part of the hemisphere: though it be the sun that ripeneth your pippins, and our pomegranates; your hops, and our vineyards here; yet he dispenseth his heat in different degrees of strength; those rays that do but warm you in England, do half roast us here; those beams that irradiate only and gild your honey-suckle fields, do scorch and parch this chinky gaping soil, and so put too many wrinkles upon the face of our common mother the earth. O blessed clime, O happy England, where there is such a rare temperature of heat and cold, and all the rest of elementary qualities, that one may pass (and suffer little) all the year long, without either shade in summer, or fire in winter.

I am now in Valentia, one of the noblest cities in all Spain, situate in a large *vega* or valley, above sixty miles compass: here are the strongest silks, the sweetest apples, the excellentest almonds, and

the best oils. The very brute animals make themselves beds of rosemary, and other fragrant flowers, hereabouts; and when one is at sea, if the wind blow from the shore, he may smell this soil before he come in sight of it, many leagues off, by the strong odoriferous scent it casts. As it is the most pleasant, so it is also the most temperate clime of all Spain; and they commonly call it the second Italy, which made the Moors, whereof many thousands were disterred and banished hence to Barbary, to think that paradise was in that part of the heavens which hung over this city. Some twelve miles off is old Segunto, called now Morviedre, through which I passed, and saw many monuments of Roman antiquities there; amongst others, there is the temple dedicated to Venus. No more now, but that I heartily wish you were with me, and I believe you would not desire to be a good while in England. So I am yours.

From the Same in Alicant to a Friend in England.

March 27th, 16—.

I am now (thanks be to God) come to Alicant, the chief rendezvous I aimed at in Spain; for I am to send hence a commodity called barilla to Sir Robert Mansel, for making of crystal glass; and I have treated with Signior Andriotti, a Genoa merchant, for a good round parcel of it, to the value of 2,000*l.* by letters of credit from master Richant; and upon his credit I might have taken many thousand pounds more, he is so well known in the kingdom of Valentia. This barilla is a strange kind of vegetable, and it grows nowhere

upon the surface of the earth in that perfection, as here. The Venetians have it hence, and it is a commodity whereby this maritime town doth partly subsist; for it is an ingredient that goes to the making of the best Castile soap. It grows thus: It is a round thick earthly shrub that bears berries like barberries, betwixt blue and green; it lies close to the ground, and when it is ripe they dig it up by the roots, and put it together in cocks, where they leave it to dry many days like hay; then they make a pit of a fathom deep in the earth, and with an instrument like one of our prongs, they take the tuffs and put fire to them, and when the flame comes to the berries, they melt and dissolve into an azure liquor, and fall down into the pit till it be full; when they dam it up, and some days after they open it, and find this barilla juice turned to a blue stone, so hard that it is scarcely malleable; it is sold at one hundred crowns a ton, but I had it for less. There is also a spurious flower called gazull, that grows here, but the glass that is made of that is not so resplendent and clear. I have been here now these three months, and most of my food hath been grapes and bread, with other roots, which have made me so fat that I think if you saw me you would hardly know me, such nutriture this deep sanguine Alicant grape gives. I have not received a syllable from you since I was in Antwerp, which transforms me to wonder and engenders odd thoughts of jealousy in me, that as my body grows fatter, your love grows lanker towards me. I pray take off these scruples, and let me hear from you, else it will make a schism in friendship, which I hold to be a very holy league, and no less than a piaeple to infringe it; in which opinion I rest your constant friend.

MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS.

From a Journeyman Tradesman to his Intended Wife.

March 6th, 18—.

Dear Mary—Ever since I have been out of my time, I have been in love with you, and I have no doubt you must have perceived my passion was sincere. Indeed, Mary, I am continually thinking about you, and I find it impossible to express how dearly I love you. I have often designed to do so, but was always afraid to open my mind when an opportunity presented itself. However, I have now done so, and I hope you will not be cruel to me, as I am sure I could never live to see you in the arms of another.

You know that I am sober, and that I can earn nine dollars a week, which, added to what I have saved, will enable us to live with comfort. I hope you will duly consider this, and consent to be mine, or I must be miserable for life.

On Sunday I shall have the happiness of passing the day with you: oh! that you may resolve to grant me that happiness for life.

Expecting your answer, I am, dear Mary,
Your truly affectionate lover.

The Young Woman's Answer.

March 8th, 18—.

Dear James—Your affectionate letter demands a serious answer. I have, as you imagine, long thought that you loved me, nor have I any objec-

tion to the marriage state, which, if entered into with a proper view of its importance, must be productive of happiness. If, therefore, you feel assured that your passion for me is grounded on sincerity, I can only say that in that case I shall not object to your wishes. But, dear James, should you ever lose sight of your present sober habits, and become a drunkard; or should you, as many wicked husbands have done, treat me ill after you have got me; then, dear James, I should soon break my poor heart. So do consider, I beseech you, before you finally decide upon our union; for indeed I could never live to be ill treated by you, or to see the poor babes we may bring into existence, consigned to ruin by their father. Observe, I by no means desire to attribute such conduct to you; on the contrary, I believe you love me too dearly to act in such a manner. If, therefore, your mind is fully made up, I shall not object. On Sunday I shall expect to see you, when every thing can be settled between us.

I am,

Your sincere well-wisher.

From a Young Man commencing Business in New York, to his intended Wife in the Country.

May 20th, 18—.

My dear Anne—I am now settled in business in this city, where, if I may judge from appearances, I shall do well, my worthy uncle having presented me with a considerable stock, and furnished my house in a genteel manner.

Thus circumstanced, I soon found how necessary it would be for me to provide a mistress for my house, and consequently ventured to inform my dear uncle of my love for you. Judge of my hap-

piness, when this dear man approved of my wishes, by desiring that I would write and request your immediate consent. Say then, my charming girl, will you accept my hand? Remember, that by so doing, you will make me the most happy of men; but, by refusing, you will render me miserable. I have sent you herewith a few articles, of which I entreat your acceptance, though they are by no means equal to your merit.

My friends unite in best respects to you; and, hoping for a favourable answer,

I am, my love,

Yours affectionately.

The Answer.

June 2d, 18—.

Sir—You are too well acquainted with the state of my heart to doubt that I love you, and you know that the only objection I ever made originated in the conviction of my own humble circumstances. The concurrence of your kind friends to our marriage, obviates the whole strength of this argument, but I still am too sensible of the difference between our relative situations, to wish you to throw yourself away upon me. Indeed, sir, I love you too well to desire it. Remember, you are a gentleman by birth, and, by the goodness of your uncle, placed in a most respectable situation, in which wealth and honour may crown your exertions. On the contrary, I am the only daughter of poor parents, who, notwithstanding their poverty, contrived to give me a decent education; but this was all, and more than they could well do.—Reflect then, sir, how extremely disproportionate our union would be, and endeavour to banish my image from your mind.

I shall leave the result to you, and abide by your decision. Permit me to assure you how sensible I am of the honour you have shown me, in thinking me worthy to be your wife, and that I shall be ever duly grateful for it. Hoping for your own advantage, you will attend to what I have said,

I am, dear sir,

Your faithful friend.

The Young Man proposes Marriage.

June 6th, 17—.

My sweet Girl—My love for you has ever been unbounded, but your last letter has greatly increased it, nor can I consent to resign so much worth and loveliness.

If, therefore, you love me, make no more objections; but, by becoming the wife of your lover, insure his happiness. To what superior purpose can wealth and connexions be applied, than that of making those participate in their enjoyments who merit every thing by their uncommon virtues? No, my Anne, you would add additional lustre to the most splendid station; and happy indeed do I consider myself in the possession of your love.

My uncle perused your letter, and, like his nephew, is more fascinated with you than ever. He truly says, that in possessing such a wife, I shall be happier than I deserve.

Every thing being therefore determined, I shall come for you on the third day from hence, and on the fourth shall seal our eternal union. Yes, my angel, then will our mutual happiness be decided. Adieu, my love!

I am,

Yours sincerely.

The Young Woman's Answer.

June 7th, 18—.

Dear Sir—Your affectionate letter demands an immediate answer; I can only say, that your wishes shall be mine, and I trust no part of my conduct will cause you to regret the distinction you have conferred upon me, and which I certainly had no reason to expect. However, it shall be my constant study faithfully to discharge the duties of that station to which you, with unexampled love, are about to elevate me.

I have shown your affectionate letter to my kind parents, who have only their prayers and blessings to present us with. They are delighted with the warmth of your love; yet, like myself, they are fearful, lest you overlook the disparity between us. However, the whole I can do is to redouble my exertions in the promotion of your interest, and in that way endeavour to make up to you for my want of fortune.

I have only to add, my dear sir, that I shall be glad to receive you at the time you have thought proper to mention.

With grateful respects to your excellent uncle,

Believe me ever to be

Your faithful and too happy.

*From a Young Man about commencing Business,
to a Female, the Object of his Acquaintance.*

October 15th, 18—.

My dearest Emily—It is with sincere pleasure I inform you, that my worthy father has taken a house and shop for me, and that, through his kindness, I shall in a few weeks, commence business for myself. My earnest efforts shall be exerted to

make the essay prosperous, and I doubt not but I shall be successful: with such prospects before me, one would think that I ought to be contented. Shall I say, I covet more? Yes, dear Emily—there is still a something must be added before I can think myself the happy being others consider me.—That something is—a good wife. With that to make him comfortable, the man is little to be envied who seeks pleasure abroad—it is her smiles, her love, that make home indeed a home. I hope, then, dearest Emily, you will start no objection to my plan; but consent to make me happy. I shall await your answer impatiently, but in good hope.

Believe me, dear girl,

Your ever affectionate.

The Answer.

October, 19th 18—.

Dear Thomas—I sincerely congratulate you on your good prospects, and add my earnest prayers for your success. As to myself, it would be indeed ungrateful were I to make any objections to an offer which shows the greatest kindness on your part, and which studies my happiness and feelings at the same time; I have therefore no more to say, than that I leave all arrangements in your hand, and in return will endeavour to do my best to please.

I am, dear Thomas,

Yours affectionately.

From a Countrywoman with a large Family, to a Respectable Lady in the Neighbourhood, soliciting a Situation for one of her Daughters.

July 7th, 18—.

Respected Madam—I trust you will excuse the liberty I take in intruding on your notice; but your known kindness, and the pressure of a large family, together with my natural anxiety to promote their welfare, have induced me to trouble you. I have, madam, four daughters, the eldest is seventeen, and the next fifteen; they are good, handy girls, brought up to habits of industry, and anxious to assist, by their own exertions, towards their own maintenance. Could you kindly recommend them, or either of them, to any lady of your acquaintance, they would make, I doubt not, good servants. I should feel the obligation to the latest moment of my life; and I am sure my girls, from a grateful sense of your kindness, would do their best to prove their gratitude.

I remain, madam,

Your humble servant.

The Answer

July 8th, 18—.

Madam—I received your letter, and am truly happy it is in my power to assist so worthy a family. A lady of my acquaintance in New York, is in want of a nursery maid; and I have recommended your eldest daughter to her. I shall give you a call in a day or two, when I will leave a card of the lady's address, and should wish to see that proper arrangements are made for your

daughter's departure; for I should like her appearance in her new situation to be such as would best conduce to her future welfare. If she should require a little assistance, I should have no objection to help her.

I am,

Your sincere well-wisher.

From a Servant in New York, to her Parents in the Country.

August 8th, 18—.

Dear Mother and Father—I take the first opportunity of writing to inform you that I arrived safe; and I have the pleasure also to add, that I am happily settled in the family Mrs. Woodfall was so kind as to recommend me to. My mistress and master are very kind to me; they have three children, two boys and one girl; Charles William is six years old; Amelia is four; and little Alfred but twenty months. I have them during the greater part of the day; and I have been so fortunate yet as to give satisfaction; I hope I may continue to do so; for I assure you I shall try my best to please. Do not forget to give my humble respects to Mrs. Woodfall, and thank her for her kindness; my dear father and mother will accept my love, and give the same to my brothers and sisters; tell them I shall send some useful little presents when I receive my quarter's money; and you may depend, my dear mother and father, I shall not forget you. I remain in the best health, which I hope all of you enjoy.

I am, dear parents,

Your affectionate daughter.

The Parents' Reply.

August 12th, 18—.

Dear Daughter—We received your affectionate letter, and we blessed God for giving us so good a child. It gives us great pleasure to hear you are so comfortable, and we pray to heaven every night to enable you to continue your good resolutions. Behave kindly to the children under your care, pay the greatest attentions to their little wants, and, above all, always keep them clean; you will then make their parents your best friends, and secure a good character; and that, my dear girl, is indeed a fortune. Be civil and obliging to your fellow-servants, but never so familiar as to indulge in idle gossip; and, whatever you hear or see, never repeat to any one, either in or out of the house, any thing that passes, either with or about your mistress or any one else. In your behaviour to the other sex, be modest and circumspect; a very little more than mere civility towards them will lead on to familiarities, which, if not timely checked, may end in your ruin here and hereafter. But your good conduct at home gives little room for much fear on this account; still, as New York is a large place, and the dangers to which young thoughtless women are exposed, so many and so various, you cannot be too cautious. Your sisters and brothers return their love to you, and we all hope to hear from you soon.

With our earnest prayers for your happiness and success, we remain,

Dear daughter,

Your affectionate parents.

*From a Country Labouring Man to a Gentleman
in the neighbourhood, soliciting a situation for
his Son.*

September 9th, 18—.

Honoured Sir—I have taken the liberty to write to you, which I hope you will excuse; I have four children: my eldest boy is now twelve years of age; he is a sharp, active lad, anxious to go into the world, and earn his own living. Should you, sir, or any gentleman of your acquaintance, be in want of such a lad, it would be rendering us all a service, which I hope we should ever remember with gratitude. He can make himself useful either in waiting at table, in cleaning knives and shoes, running of errands, or attending in the stable; indeed he is handy at most things, either in or out of the house. I have brought him up to fear God, and be honest; and I hope he will never disgrace either me or himself.

Waiting your kind answer, I remain,

Honoured sir,

Your humble servant.

The Gentleman's Answer.

September 10th, 18—.

Friend Rodger—You may bring your son here next Monday morning, between eight and nine o'clock; and if he really answers your recommendation, we can, I dare say, find something for him to do; and if he should turn out a good lad, he shall not want a friend.

I am,

Yours truly.

*From a Parent in the Country, to her Daughter a
Servant in New York.*

March 9th, 18—.

Dear Daughter—We have not heard from you so long, that we are afraid you are ill, for we would not willingly think you had forgotten us; your father and myself feel anxious at all times to know how you go on, and particularly so at present, for you have arrived at an age when youth generally think themselves perfectly capable of conducting themselves with the greatest propriety, when in fact there is perhaps no time of life at which they are less capable of doing so. The world is full of temptations, and in New York, above all parts, those dangers abound, perhaps under more deceitful, more attractive appearances; but with equal, if not more dangerous consequences. Pleasure there puts on her most enticing forms, and old and young, rich and poor, follow eager in her train. It is then that youth, particularly females, are in real danger, and it is then they think they are in least. But the experience of maturer years will convince them of this truth; and if they be wise in time, and be prudent in youth, they may expect to enjoy an honourable and happy old age. We shall wish to hear from you as soon as you can find an opportunity; meantime I remain, with sincere wishes for your happiness and welfare,

Your affectionate mother.

The Daughter's Answer.

March 11th, 18—.

Dear Parents—Your letter makes me feel how ungratefully I have acted, but, believe me, my dear

parents, it was more for the want of thought than from any intention to slight either of you, to whom I am under so many obligations; your kind cautions, my dear mother, are, I know, intended for my good, and I hope I shall never forget them so much or lose sight of my duty in such a manner as to give you any real cause of uneasiness. My mistress still behaves very kind to me, and has promised me a week's holiday; which I mean to devote to seeing you; I shall write you word when and how I shall come home.

I have inclosed a little keepsake for mother, and send a kiss and my kind love to my dear father.

I remain, my dear parents,

Your affectionate daughter.

From a Young Female in Service to her Parents, informing them of her having received an offer of Marriage.

October 15th, 18—.

Dear Parents—I have before informed you that Mr. John Walker has behaved very kind to me, and been very particular in his attentions to me; I have now to inform you that, last Wednesday, he made proposals of marriage to me; he told me that all was ready, and that he had a home to take me to. I would not give him a decisive answer until I had consulted you. His circumstances are, as you know, as comfortable as I have any right to expect to share; and he appears industrious, sober, and prudent, and bears a good character among all his acquaintance.

Waiting your early answer, I remain,

Dear parents,

Your affectionate daughter.

The Answer.

November 23d, 18—.

Sir—From the good opinion I have of you, I can offer no reasonable objection to your proposed acquaintance; but at the same time, before I give any further answer, I must request that you will solicit the permission of my parents: that obtained, you will find no further objection from,

Sir,

Your sincere well-wisher.

From the Young Man to her Parents.

November 25th, 18—.

Respected Friends—The few opportunities I have had of observing the conduct of your amiable daughter Maria, has so completely answered the expectations I had formed of what the female ought to be who could make a man happy in the marriage-state, that I entreat your kind permission to pay my addresses to her; I am in moderately good circumstances, and trust industry and attention will keep me so; my character will bear the strictest investigation, but, as I am almost a stranger to you, I will with pleasure give you any reference you may require. Entreating your favourable answer,

I remain, dear friends,

Yours very respectfully.

The Parent's Answer.

November 27th, 18—.

My young Friend—You are not, perhaps, quite such a stranger as you think yourself; but what

The Answer.

November 23d, 18—.

Sir—From the good opinion I have of you, I can offer no reasonable objection to your proposed acquaintance; but at the same time, before I give any further answer, I must request that you will solicit the permission of my parents: that obtained, you will find no further objection from,

Sir,

Your sincere well-wisher.

From the Young Man to her Parents.

November 25th, 18—.

Respected Friends—The few opportunities I have had of observing the conduct of your amiable daughter Maria, has so completely answered the expectations I had formed of what the female ought to be who could make a man happy in the marriage-state, that I entreat your kind permission to pay my addresses to her; I am in moderately good circumstances, and trust industry and attention will keep me so; my character will bear the strictest investigation, but, as I am almost a stranger to you, I will with pleasure give you any reference you may require. Entreating your favourable answer,

I remain, dear friends,

Yours very respectfully.

The Parent's Answer.

November 27th, 18—.

My young Friend—You are not, perhaps, quite such a stranger as you think yourself; but what

we do know of you, is to your credit: we have therefore not the least objection to what you purpose, and shall be happy to see you at our house on Sunday next, to dinner; when we will talk over the affair.

I remain, sir,

Yours truly.

From a Poor Man with a large Family, to a Ship-owner.

November 31st, 18—.

Sir—I trust you will excuse the liberty I take in entreating your kind notice for my eldest son, Charles, now fifteen years of age; a stout, hearty lad, and anxious to become a sailor. Should you, sir, have room in either of your ships, I should feel grateful if you would allow me to give you a call with my boy.

I am, sir,

Your humble servant.

The Answer.

November 28th, 18—.

Sir—As I understand that there is room in several of my ships for a lad or two, I have no objection to your calling with your son at my office. I shall be in the way at ten o'clock to-morrow morning.

I am, sir,

Your humble servant.

From a Person in the Country to his Friend in Philadelphia, soliciting a Situation for his Son.

November 30th, 18—.

My dear Friend—My boy William is now fifteen and very anxious to launch out into the world;

I am also willing that he should now do something for himself, and therefore wish to second his endeavours. If you can hear of something, do let me know, and I shall consider it as another act of friendship conferred on

Your sincere friend,

And well-wisher.

The Answer.

November 31st, 18—.

Dear Friend—I received yours of yesterday, and in answer assure you I will use my best endeavours in your son's behalf. With kind remembrances to all branches of your family,

Believe me,

Yours sincerely.

From an English Nobleman to his Son.

November 1st, 17—.

Dear Boy—Let us return to oratory, or the art of speaking well; which should never be entirely out of your thoughts, since it is so useful in every part of life, and so absolutely necessary in most. A man can make no figure without it in parliament, in the church, or in the law; and even in common conversation, a man that has acquired an easy and habitual eloquence, who speaks properly and accurately, will have a great advantage over those who speak incorrectly and inelegantly.

The business of oratory, as I have told you before, is to persuade people; and you easily feel, that to please people is a great step towards persuading them. You must then, consequently, be sensible how advantageous it is for a man who speaks in public, whether it be in parliament, in

the pulpit, or at the bar, (that is, in the courts of law,) to please his hearers so much as to gain their attention; which he can never do without the help of oratory. It is not enough to speak the language he speaks in, in its utmost purity, and according to the rules of grammar; but he must speak it elegantly; that is, he must choose the best and most expressive words, and put them in the best order. He should likewise adorn what he says by proper metaphors, similes, and other figures of rhetoric; and he should enliven it, if he can, by quick and sprightly turns of wit. For example, suppose you had a mind to persuade Mr. Maittaire to give you a holiday, would you bluntly say to him 'Give me a holiday?' That would certainly not be the way to persuade him to it. But you should endeavour first to please him, and gain his attention, by telling him, that your experience of his goodness and indulgence, encouraged you to ask a favour of him; that if he should not think proper to grant it, at least you hoped he would not take it ill that you asked it. Then you should tell him, what it was that you wanted; that it was a holiday; for which you should give your reasons, as, that you had such or such a thing to do, or such a place to go to. Then you might urge some arguments why he should not refuse you; as, that you have seldom asked that favour, and that you seldom will; and that the mind may sometimes require a little rest from labour, as well as the body. This you may illustrate by a simile; and say, that as the bow is the stronger for being sometimes unstrung and unbent; so the mind will be capable of more attention, for being now and then easy and relaxed.

This is a little oration, fit for such a little orator as you ; but, however, it will make you understand what is meant by oratory and eloquence ; which is, to persuade. I hope you will have that talent hereafter in great matters.

From the Same to the Same.

April 14th, 17—.

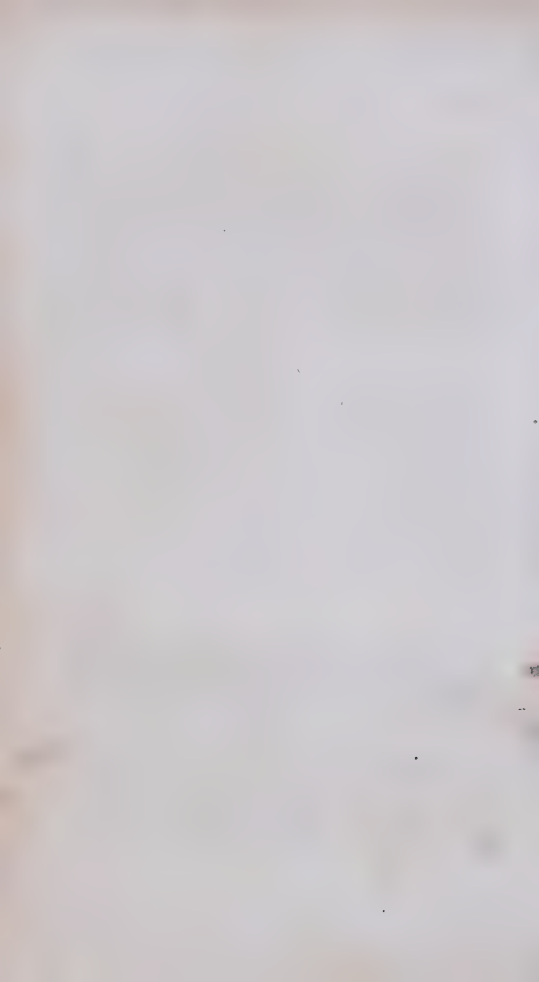
Dear Boy—If you feel half the pleasure from the consciousness of doing well, that I do from the information I have lately received in your favour, from Mr. Harte, I shall have little occasion to exhort or admonish you any more to do what your own satisfaction and self-love will sufficiently prompt you to. Mr. Harte tells me that you attend, that you apply to your studies ; and that, beginning to understand, you begin to taste them. This pleasure will increase and keep pace with your attention ; so that the balance will be greatly to your advantage. You may remember, that I have earnestly recommended to you, to do what you are about, be that what it will ; and to do nothing else at the same time. Do not imagine that I mean by this that you should attend to and plod at your book all day long ; far from it : I mean that you should have your pleasures too ; and that you should attend to them, for the time, as much as your studies ; and if you do not attend equally to both, you will neither have improvement nor satisfaction from either. A man is fit for neither business nor pleasure, who either cannot or does not command and direct his attention to the present object, and in some degree banish, for that time, all other objects from his thoughts. If at a

lall, a supper, or a party of pleasure, a man were to be solving in his own mind a problem in Euclid, he would be a very bad companion, and make a very poor figure in that company; or if in studying a problem in his closet he were to think of a minuet, I am apt to believe he would make a very poor mathematician. There is time enough for every thing in the course of the day, if you do but one thing at once; but there is not time enough in the year, if you will do two things at a time. The pensionary De Witt, who was torn to pieces in the year 1662, did the whole business of the republic, and yet had time left to go to assemblies in the evening, and sup in company. Being asked how he could possibly find time to go through so much business, and yet amuse himself in the evenings as he did; he answered there was nothing so easy; for that was only doing one thing at a time, and never putting off anything till to-morrow, that could be done to-day. This steady and undissipated attention to one object, is a sure mark of a superior genius; as hurry, bustle, and agitation, are the never-failing symptoms of a weak and frivolous mind. When you read Horace, attend to the justness of his thoughts, the happiness of his diction, and the beauty of his poetry; and do not think of Puffendorf *de Homine et Cive*; and when you are reading Puffendorf, do not think of Madame de St. Germain; nor of Puffendorf when you are talking to Madame de St. Germain.

Mr. Harte informs me that he has reimbursed you part of your losses in Germany; and I consent to his reimbursing you the whole, now I know that you deserve it. I shall grudge you nothing nor shall you want anything that you desire, pro

vided you deserve it ; so that, you see, it is in your own power to have whatever you please.

There is a little book which you read here with Monsieur Coderic, entitled *Maniere de bien penser dans les Ouvrages d'Esprit*, written by Pere Bouhours. I wish you would read this book again at your leisure hours ; for it will not only divert you, but likewise form your taste, and give you a just manner of thinking. Adieu.



COMPLIMENTARY CARDS AND NOTES.

Mrs. Vernon presents her compliments to Miss Aldridge, and requests the honour of her company to a tea and card party, on Wednesday afternoon.

16, Arch Street,
Tuesday noon.

Miss Aldridge presents her respects to Mrs. Vernon, and accepts her kind invitation with pleasure.

16, Chesnut Street,
Tuesday noon.

Miss Aldridge presents her respects to Mrs. Vernon, and regrets that a pre-engagement prevents her acceptance of her polite invitation.

William Bentley presents his respectful compliments to Miss Woolgar, and trusts she has experienced no ill consequences from her last evening's fatigue at the assembly.

Miss Woolgar finds herself greatly obliged by Mr Bentley's kind inquiries, and is happy to inform him that she is perfectly well.

Miss Woolgar is greatly obliged to Mr. Bentley's kind inquiry, and is sorry to say that she suffers under a severe cold, in consequence of the last evening's amusement.

Note—Complimentary Cards must always have the address, &c. at bottom, similar to the two first.

Mr. W. presents his compliments to Mr. S., and hopes, if Mr. S. is disengaged, that he will dine with him on Monday next, at half-past three o'clock.

Mr. S. presents his respects to Mr. W., and will avail himself of his kind invitation with pleasure.

Mr. S. regrets that indisposition will prevent him the honour of dining with Mr. W. on Monday next.

Miss Dudley's compliments to Mrs. Windsor, and will be obliged by her company to dinner on Thursday next, at three o'clock.

Mrs. Windsor's compliments to Miss Dudley, and is sorry that a pre-engagement for Thursday next, compels her to decline her very polite invitation.

Mrs. Windsor presents her respectful compliments to Miss Dudley, and shall do herself the honour of waiting upon her at the appointed day.

Mrs. Prescott is sorry to hear of Mrs. Williams's severe indisposition, and hopes that Mrs. W. finds herself better this morning. If agreeable, Mrs. P. will do herself the honour of making a personal inquiry.

Mrs. Williams is highly obliged by Mrs. Prescott's kind inquiries, and is happy to say, she feels considerably better. Mrs. Prescott's company will be at all times agreeable.

Mrs. Williams is much obliged by the friendly attention of Mrs. Prescott, but is sorry to say, she feels herself so unwell as to preclude her from the reception of company.

Mrs. Johnson returns her best respects to Mr. Wilson, and is greatly indebted to him for his obliging present.

Mr. and Mrs. Bristow present their compliments to Mr. and Mrs. Trueman, and hope for the pleasure of their company on Thursday evening next, to tea and cards.

Mr. and Mrs. Trueman are greatly obliged by Mr. and Mrs. Bristow's kind invitation, and will do themselves the honour of waiting upon them.

Mr. and Mrs. Trueman are exceedingly sorry that a pre-engagement will prevent them from accepting Mr. and Mrs. Bristow's polite invitation

Mr. and Mrs. C. present their best respects to Mr. and Mrs. D. and shall expect the pleasure of their company to meet a dinner party, at five o'clock, on Wednesday afternoon next.

Mr. and Mrs. D. are truly obliged by the polite invitation given them by Mr. and Mrs. C., and will do themselves the honour of attending upon them at the appointed time.

Mr. and Mrs. D. present their respectful compliments to Mr. and Mrs. C. and are exceedingly sorry that the severe indisposition of Mr. D. will deprive them of the pleasure of accepting their friendly invitation.

Mr. B. will be greatly obliged, if Mr. H. will favour him with a call this evening, at eight o'clock, having some business of particular importance to communicate. The favour of an answer is requested.

Mr. H. has to acknowledge the honour of Mr. B.'s note, and will do himself the pleasure of waiting upon him at the appointed hour.

Mr. H. is truly sorry that he is unavoidably prevented from waiting on Mr. B. at the hour of eight this evening, but will do himself that honour to-morrow morning, at eleven o'clock.

Mr. Williams presents his best respects to Mr. Johnson, and begs his acceptance of the basket of fish sent herewith.

Mr. Johnson feels himself highly obliged by Mr. Williams's polite attention, and returns him many thanks for his handsome present.

Forms used in Law.

A Seaman's Will and Power.

Know all men by these presents, that I, _____, mariner on board the United States ship Warren, by these presents do make and appoint my trusty friend _____, prize agent, 136, High Street, Philadelphia, my true and lawful attorney, to receive whatever sums of money may become due to me for pay, prize-money, wages, or on any other account whatsoever, whilst serving on board any of the United States ships or vessels of war. Giving, and thereby granting unto my said attorney, full power to take, pursue, and follow such legal courses for the recovery, receiving, and obtaining, and discharging of the said sums of money, or any of them, as I myself might or could do, were I personally present: and I hereby ratify, allow, and confirm, all

and whatever my said attorney shall lawfully do, or cause to be done, by virtue of these presents. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this day of , one thousand eight hundred and

T. T.

Signed, sealed, and delivered,
in the presence of us,

A. B.

C. D.

A Deed of Gift.

To all whom it may concern, I do send greeting—Know ye that I, the said , of the city of , in the county of , gentleman, in consequence of the love, good will, and affection, which I have and do bear towards my brother of the aforesaid city and county, do by these presents freely give and grant unto my said dear brother, his heirs, executors, or administrators, all and singular my goods and chattels, now being in my present house, number 10, Walnut street: of which by these presents I have delivered him, the said , an inventory, signed by my own hand before proper witnesses, and bearing date the day of , one thousand eight hundred and , to have and to hold all the said goods and chattels in the said premises, to him the said , his heirs, executors, or administrators, from henceforth, as his and their proper goods and chattels absolutely, without any manner of condition. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this day of , in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and

A. B.

Signed, sealed, and delivered
in the presence of us,

C. D.

E. F.

A Bond.

Be it known unto all men by these presents, that I, _____, of the town of _____, in the county of _____, gentleman, am held and firmly bound to _____, of the aforesaid county, esquire, in the penal sum of _____ dollars,* of good and lawful money of the United States, to be paid to the said _____ esquire, his heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns; for the true payment whereof I bind myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, firmly by these presents, sealed with my seal. Dated this _____ day of _____ in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and _____

The condition of this obligation is such, that if the above bounden _____, his heirs, executors or administrators, do well and truly pay, or cause to be paid, to the above-named _____ his heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, the full sum of _____ dollars, of good and lawful money of the United States, on the _____ day of _____ next ensuing the date hereof, with lawful interest, then this obligation to be void, but in failure thereof to remain in due force.

J. M.

Signed, sealed, and delivered,
in the presence of us,

A. B.

C. D.

The Form of a Will.

In the name of God, Amen. The _____ day of _____, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and _____

I, Henry Morris, of the city of Boston, gentleman, being, through the blessing of God, in a sound state of mind and memory, but calling to mind the frail tenure of this life, and that it is appointed to all men

* Double the value received is always mentioned in the body of all bonds; and the real sum secured is specified in the condition.

once to die, do make and ordain this my last will and testament; that is to say, I give, bequeath, and dispose of it in the manner and proportion here following:

First, I give and bequeath to my beloved wife, Elizabeth, the sum of eight hundred dollars to be paid to her within one month of my decease, together with all my houses, household furniture, plate, jewels, and such money as may be in the house at the time of my death. I also further give to my said wife, the sum of one thousand dollars, lawful money of the United States, annually, during the period of her natural life, to be secured on my estate in

Also, I give to my dear daughter Julia, the sum of five thousand dollars, lawful money of the United States, to be paid to her on the day she attains her twenty-first year. In addition to which sum of five thousand dollars, I hereby direct my executor to pay her on the first day of every year, the full sum of one hundred dollars, free from any deductions, during the course of her natural life.

Finally, I give and bequeath unto my much beloved son Henry Morris, whom I make my sole executor of this my last will and testament, all and singular my lands, messuages, tenements and funded property, with the exceptions above made in favour of my dearly beloved wife and daughter, both of whom I recommend unto his most especial notice. And I do hereby utterly disallow, revoke, and disannul all and every other former testaments, wills, legacies, bequests, and executors by me in any way before named, willed, and bequeathed; ratifying and confirming this, and no other, to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, the day and the year first above written.

H. M.

Signed, sealed, published, pronounced, and declared, by the said Henry Morris, as his last will and testament, in the presence of us the subscribers

A. B.
C. D.
E. F

Note—Where a Will is already signed, any alterations desired to be made in it, may be legally done by the addition of a codicil, properly witnessed, in the same manner as a will. As many of these codicils may be added from time to time, as change of circumstances may render necessary.

Two witnesses are sufficient, excepting when freeholds are bequeathed.

Form of a Codicil.

Be it known unto all men by these presents, I, the said Henry Morris, of the city of Boston, gentleman, have made and declared my last will and testament, bearing date the day of , one thousand eight hundred and , I the said Henry Morris, by this present codicil, do ratify and confirm my said last will and testament, and do give and bequeath unto my dear brother Edward Morris, the sum of two hundred dollars, of good and lawful money of the United States, to be paid to the said Edward Morris by my Executor out of my estate, within three months from the time of my decease. Witness my hand, this day of , one thousand eight hundred and

H. M

Signed, sealed, and declared,
by the said Henry Morris,
as a codicil to his last will
and testament, in the pre-
sence of us,

H. W. . . .

M. E.

X. Y.

A Letter of Attorney.

Know all men by these presents, that I, , of in the county of shipbuilder, for divers considerations, have made, ordained, constituted, and appointed, and by these presents do make, constitute, ordain and appoint my

worthy friend, _____, of _____, in the county aforesaid, gentleman, my true and lawful attorney, for me, in my name, and to my use, to ask, demand, recover, or receive, of and from _____, of _____, in the said county, the sum of _____, lawful money; giving, and by these presents granting to my said attorney, my sole and full power and authority, to take, pursue, and follow such legal courses for the recovery, receiving, and obtaining the same, as I myself might or could do, were I personally present; and upon the receipt of the same, acquaintances and other sufficient discharges for me, and in my name, to make, sign, seal, and deliver; as also one more attorney, or attorneys under him, to substitute or appoint, and again at his pleasure revoke; and further to do, perform, and finish for me, and in my name, all and singular thing and things, which shall or may be necessary, and entirely as I the said _____, in my own person, ought or could do in and about the same; ratifying, allowing, and confirming whatsoever my said attorney shall lawfully do or cause to be done, in and about the execution of the premises, by virtue of these presents. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this _____ day of _____, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and _____

T. J

Signed, sealed and delivered,
in the presence of us,

A. B.

C. D.

Receipts, Bills, &c.

A Receipt for Money.

Boston, May 14th, 18—.

Received from Abraham Moosley, the sum of seven hundred dollars, the value of three hundred dozen of port wine, sold to him this day.

\$700.

JOHN CROSS.

Another.

New York, October 19th, 18—.

Received from Mr. Eaton, the sum of five dollars the amount of bill delivered.

\$5

CHARLES FOX.

Another.

Philadelphia, May 6th, 18—.

Received of Mr. William Jackson, the sum of one hundred dollars, for a gold snuff-box, on account of Messrs. Warwick and Co. goldsmiths.

\$100

EDWARD HARTLEY,
Clerk

A Receipt in Full of all Demands.

Boston, June 20th, 18—.

Received of Henry Blackman, Esq. the sum of one thousand dollars, being in full of all demands possessed by us on the said Henry Blackman, Esq.

\$1000.

CHARLES MORGAN & Co.

A Draft, or Bill of Exchange

Boston July 5th, 18—.

\$500.
—

Sixty days after date, pay to Mr. Samuel Osborne, or order, the sum of five hundred dollars, for value received.

ANDREW POOLE.

*Messrs. A. & B. Merchants,
State Street.*

—
Another.

New York, July 6th, 18—.

\$50.
—

Two months after date, pay to our order, fifty dollars for value received.

ALLEN & GIBBS.

*To Mr. Ray,
Market Square.*

—
Another

Philadelphia, June 1st, 18—.

At ten days' sight, pay the bearer the sum of fifty dollars, and book it to me, for value received.

\$50
—

I am, sir,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS CREW

*J. Morris, Esq.
Market Street.*

Note.—To render the above bills current, they must be accepted by the persons on whom drawn, and indorsed by the drawer, as well as by all persons through whose hands they may pass. This may be of any date, as agreed on between the parties.

A Promissory Note.

Philadelphia, March 1st, 18—.

One month after date, I promise to pay to Mr. William Long, or order, the sum of thirty dollars for value received.

\$30.

HENRY MORRIS.

Note.—This bill must, to render it negotiable, be indorsed by the persons whose hands it may pass through in the same manner as directed for bills of exchange.

Receipts for making Ink.

To make Black Ink.

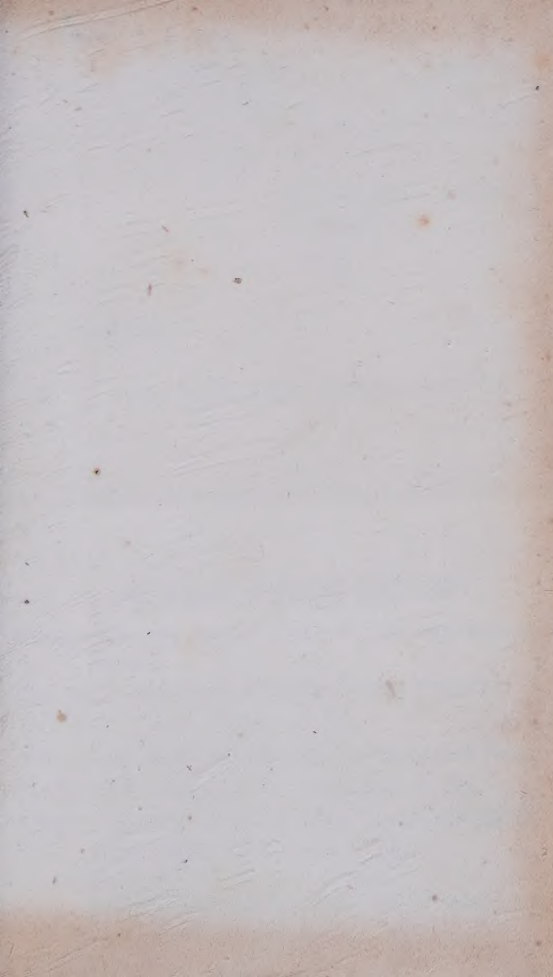
One quart of soft water, four ounces of galls bruised small, one ounce of copperas, and half an ounce of gum. Let these stand in a stone bottle, near the fire, with a narrow mouth, to keep it free from dust; shake, or stir it well, once every day, and you will have excellent ink in about a month's time, and the older it grows, the better it will be for use.

To make Red Ink.

Take three pints of stale beer (rather than vinegar) and four ounces of ground Brazil wood; simmer them together for an hour, dissolve half an ounce of gum arabic in it, then strain it through a flannel, and bottle it up (well stopped) for use.

To prevent ink from freezing, put a glass of brandy into it. And to prevent it from turning mouldy, put a little salt into it.

THE END.



NOV 12 1908

jZ 1038
T95P

Copy 1

CHILDREN'S ROOM

jZ 1038 Copy 1
T95P
PE3

Turner

The parlour letter-writer

ST. PAUL PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library rules are made solely for the convenience of patrons.

DO NOT REMOVE CARDS FROM POCKET.

DO NOT LEND YOUR CARD.

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE for all loans and fines.

DATE DUE is stamped on book card or slip.

FINES ON OVERDUE BOOKS & MAGAZINES

Adult books - Two cents a day.

Magazines - Two cents a day.

Juvenile books & magazines - One cent a day.

